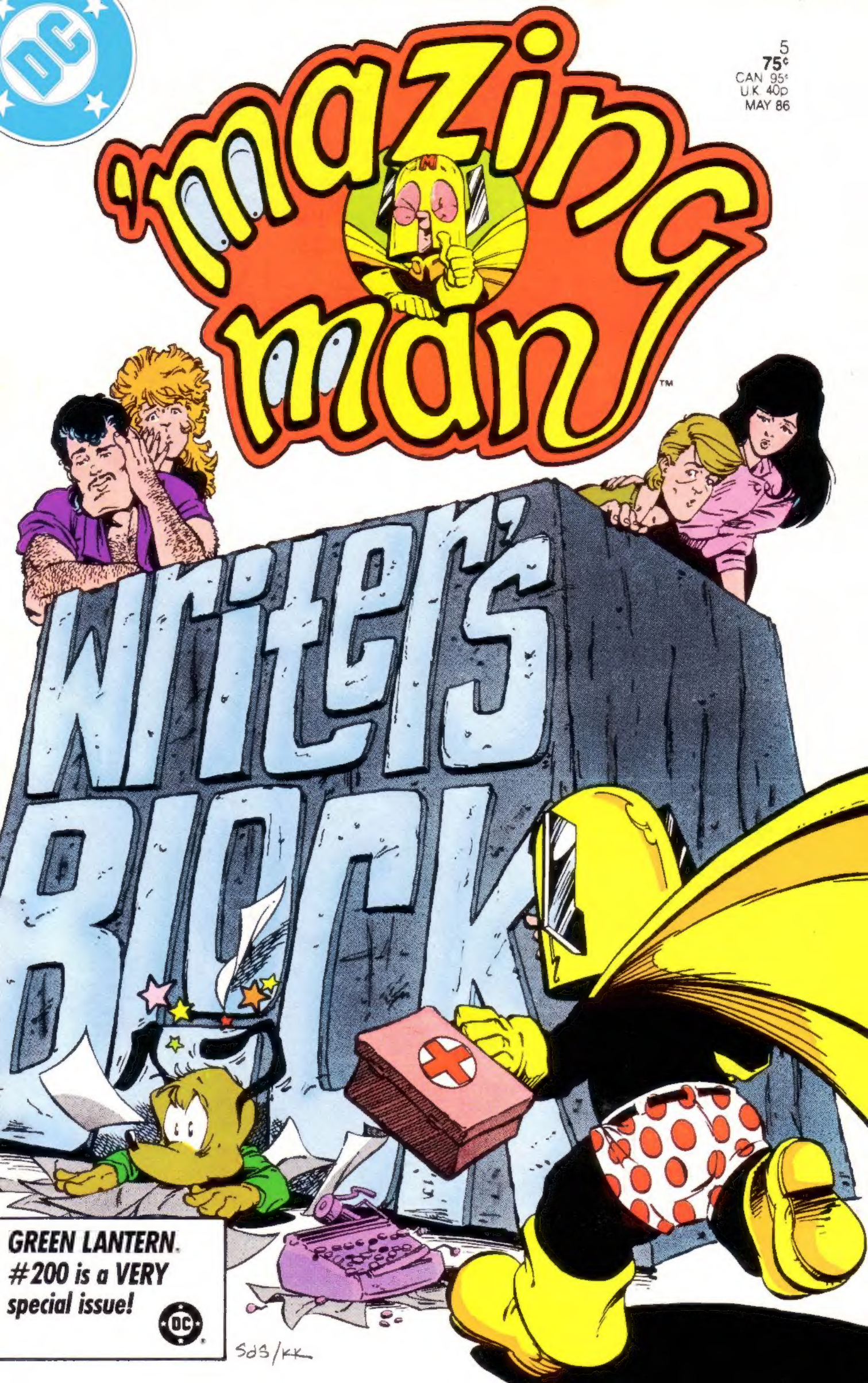
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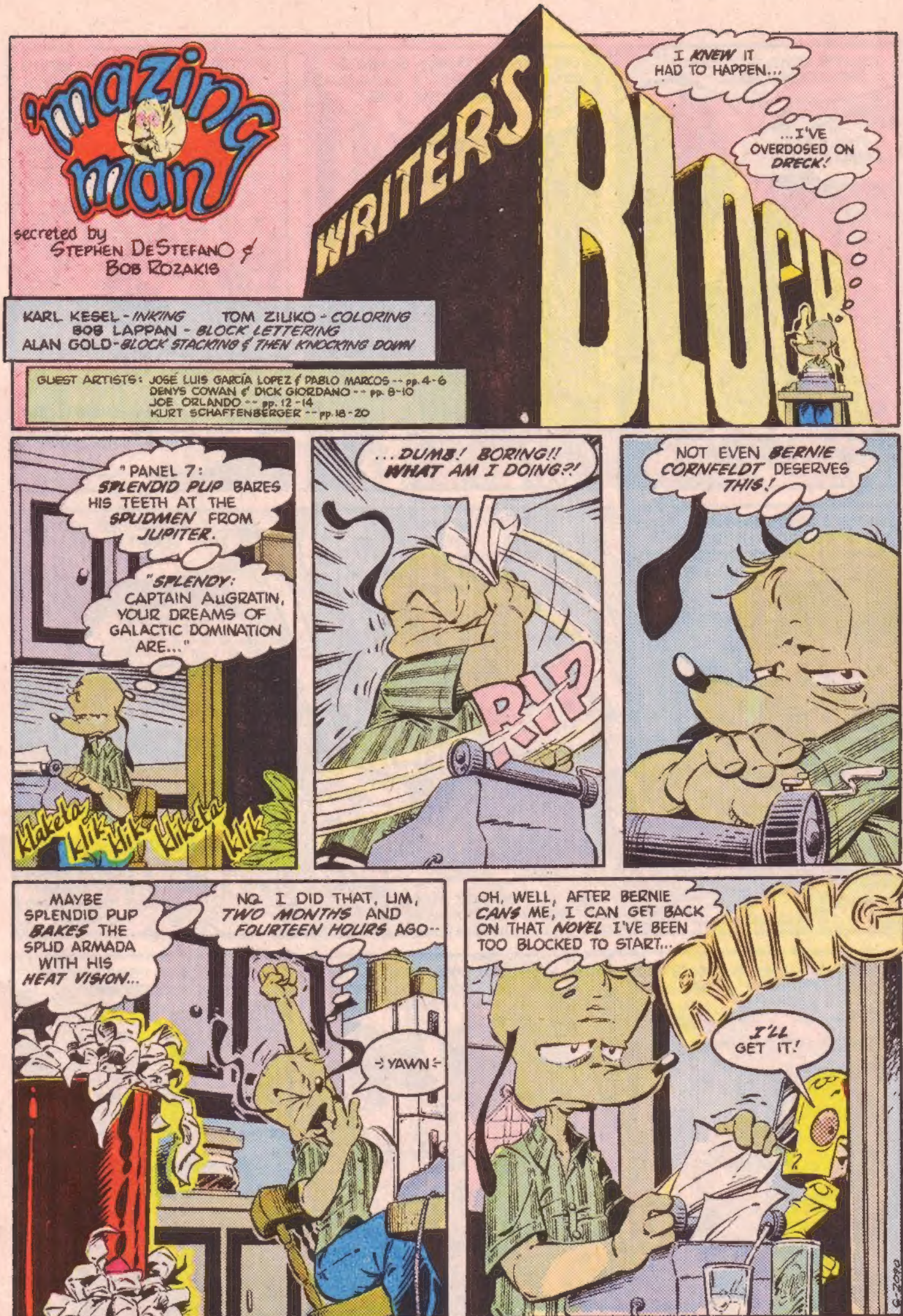
MAY 86
'mazing man
Writer's Block
GREEN LANTERN. #200 is a VERY special issue!
SdS/KK


'mazing man
secreted by
STEPHEN DESTEFANO & BOB ROZAKIS
WRITER'S BLOCK
I KNEW IT HAD TO HAPPEN...
...I'VE OVERDOSED ON DRECK!
KARL KESEL - INKING
TOM ZIUKO - COLORING
BOB LAPPAN - BLOCK LETTERING
ALAN GOLD - BLOCK STACKING & THEN KNOCKING DOWN
GUEST ARTISTS: JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA LOPEZ & PABLO MARCOS -- pp. 4-6
DENYS COWAN & DICK GIORDANO -- pp. 8-10
JOE ORLANDO -- pp. 12-14
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER -- pp. 18-20
"PANEL 7: SPLENDID PUP BARES HIS TEETH AT THE SPUDMEN FROM JUPITER.
"SPLENDY: CAPTAIN AuGRATIN, YOUR DREAMS OF GALACTIC DOMINATION ARE..."
klaketa klik klik klaketa klik
...DUMB! BORING!! WHAT AM I DOING?!
RIP
NOT EVEN BERNIE CORNFELDT DESERVES THIS!
MAYBE SPLENDID PUP BAKES THE SPUD ARMADA WITH HIS HEAT VISION...
NO. I DID THAT, LIM, TWO MONTHS AND FOURTEEN HOURS AGO--
-) YAWN (-
OH, WELL, AFTER BERNIE CANS ME, I CAN GET BACK ON THAT NOVEL I'VE BEEN TOO BLOCKED TO START...
RING
I'LL GET IT!

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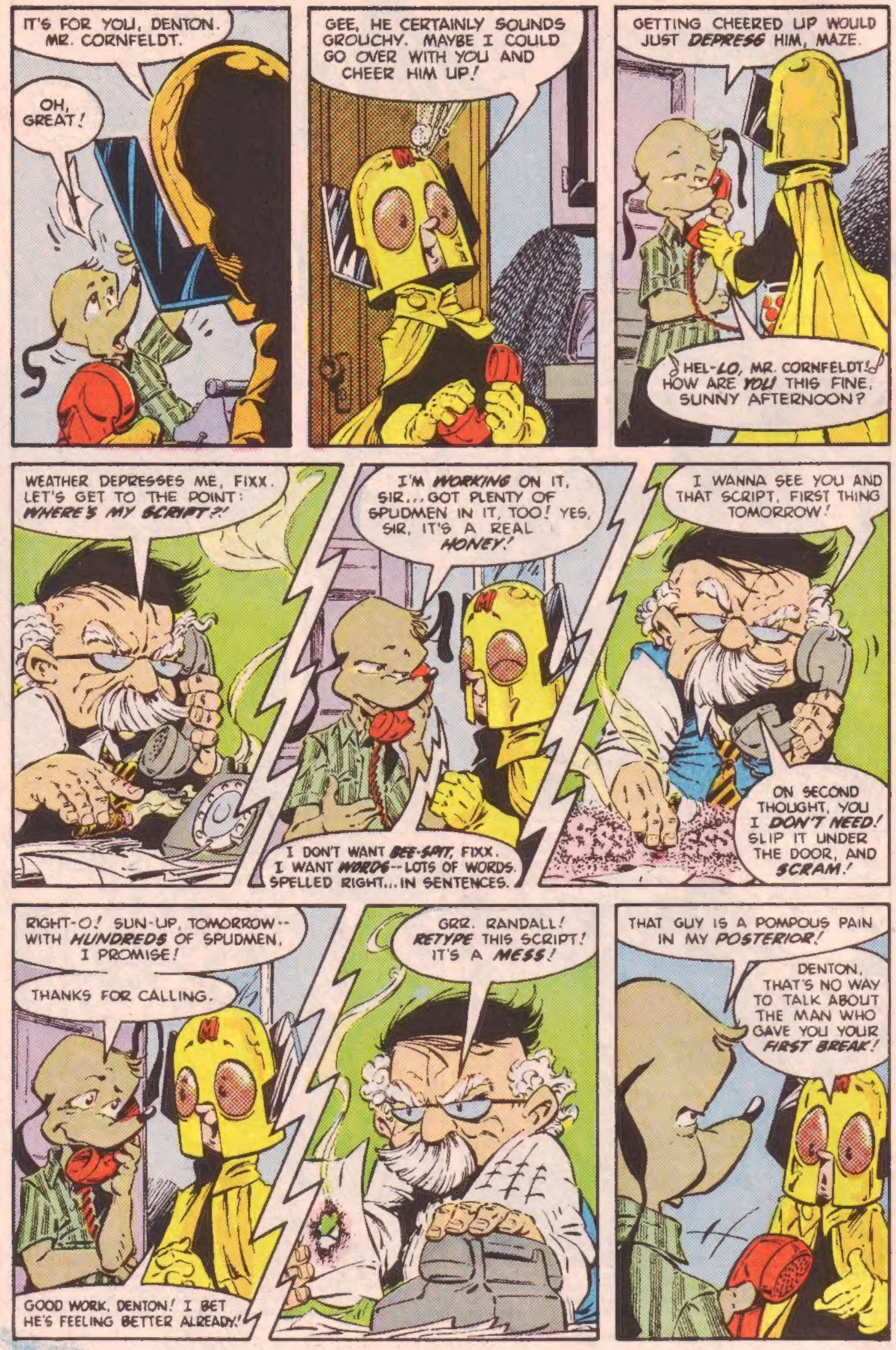
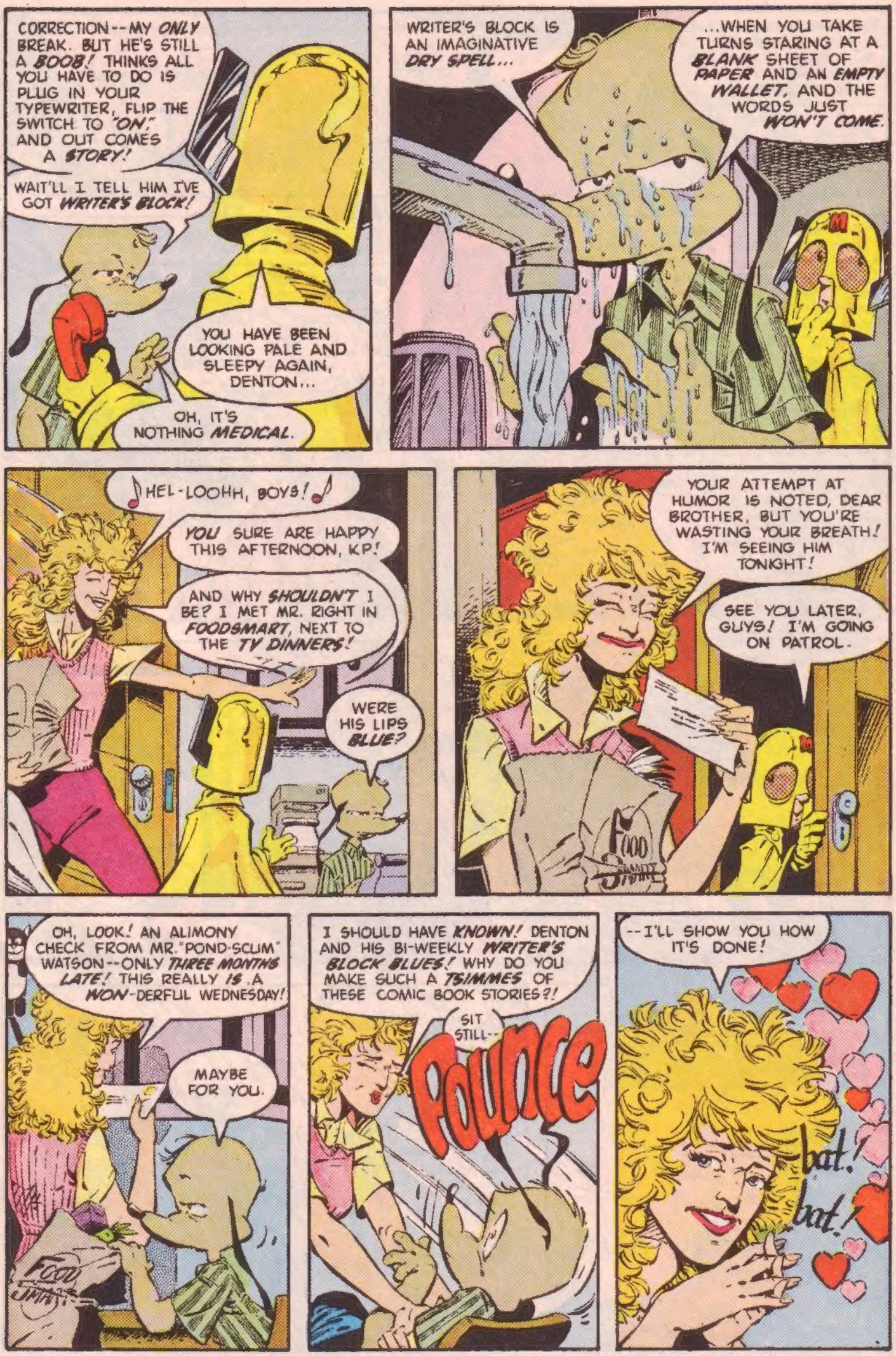
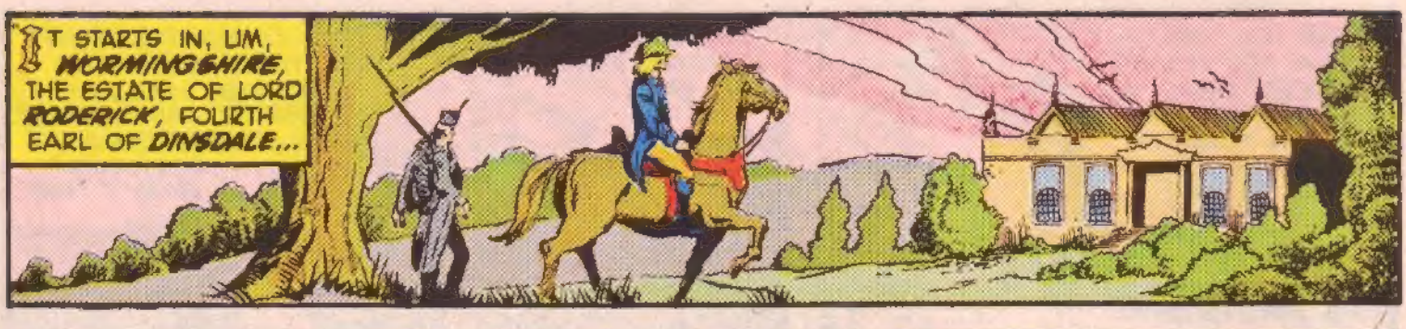
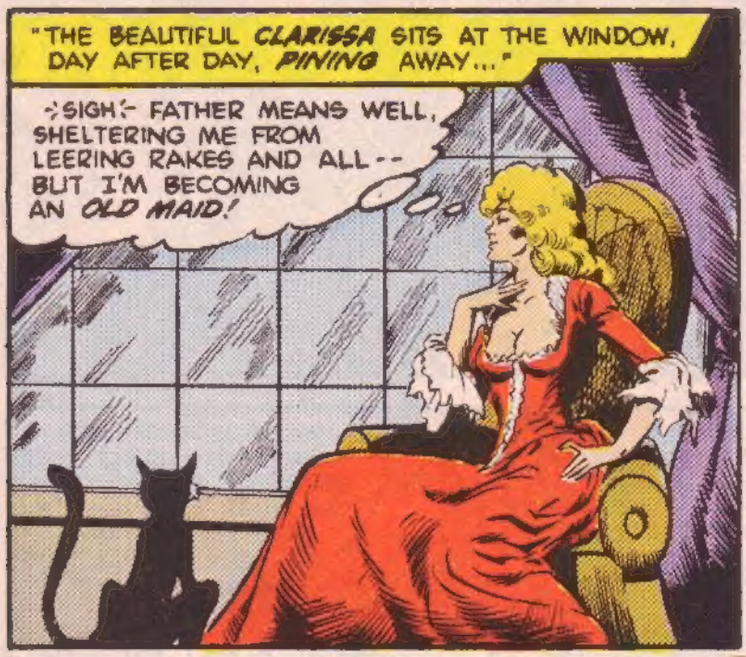
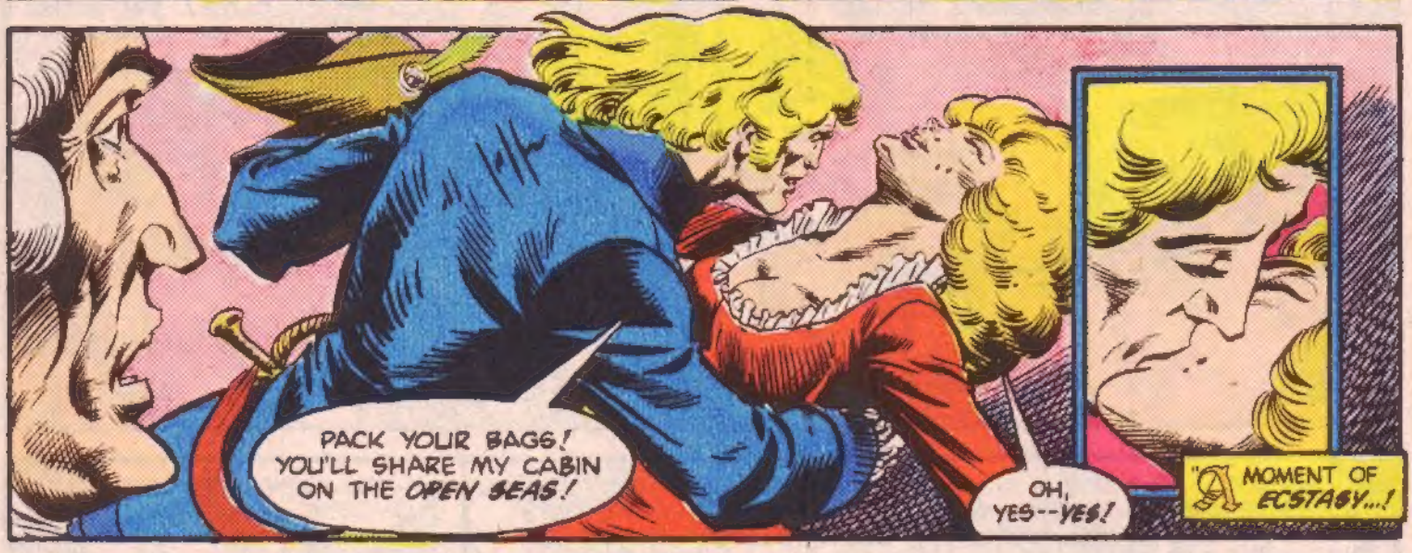

IT'S FOR YOU, DENTON. MR. CORNFELDT.
OH, GREAT!
GEE, HE CERTAINLY SOUNDS GROUCHY. MAYBE I COULD GO OVER WITH YOU AND CHEER HIM UP!
GETTING CHEERED UP WOULD JUST DEPRESS HIM, MAZE.
♪ HEL-LO, MR. CORNFELDT! HOW ARE YOU THIS FINE, SUNNY AFTERNOON?
WEATHER DEPRESSES ME, FIXX. LET'S GET TO THE POINT: WHERE'S MY SCRIPT?!
I'M WORKING ON IT, SIR... GOT PLENTY OF SPUDMEN IN IT, TOO! YES, SIR, IT'S A REAL HONEY!
I WANNA SEE YOU AND THAT SCRIPT, FIRST THING TOMORROW!
I DON'T WANT BEE-SPIT, FIXX. I WANT WORDS -- LOTS OF WORDS. SPELLED RIGHT... IN SENTENCES.
ON SECOND THOUGHT, YOU I DON'T NEED! SLIP IT UNDER THE DOOR, AND SCRAM!
RIGHT-O! SUN-UP, TOMORROW -- WITH HUNDREDS OF SPUDMEN, I PROMISE!
THANKS FOR CALLING.
GOOD WORK, DENTON! I BET HE'S FEELING BETTER ALREADY!
GRR. RANDALL! RETYPE THIS SCRIPT! IT'S A MESS!
THAT GUY IS A POMPOUS PAIN IN MY POSTERIOR!
DENTON, THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK ABOUT THE MAN WHO GAVE YOU YOUR FIRST BREAK!


CORRECTION--MY ONLY BREAK. BUT HE'S STILL A BOOB! THINKS ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PLUG IN YOUR TYPEWRITER, FLIP THE SWITCH TO "ON," AND OUT COMES A STORY!
WAIT'LL I TELL HIM I'VE GOT WRITER'S BLOCK!
YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING PALE AND SLEEPY AGAIN, DENTON...
OH, IT'S NOTHING MEDICAL.
WRITER'S BLOCK IS AN IMAGINATIVE DRY SPELL...
...WHEN YOU TAKE TURNS STARING AT A BLANK SHEET OF PAPER AND AN EMPTY WALLET, AND THE WORDS JUST WON'T COME.
HEL-LOOHH, BOYS!
YOU SURE ARE HAPPY THIS AFTERNOON, KP!
AND WHY SHOULDN'T I BE? I MET MR. RIGHT IN FOODSMART, NEXT TO THE TV DINNERS!
WERE HIS LIPS BLUE?
YOUR ATTEMPT AT HUMOR IS NOTED, DEAR BROTHER, BUT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH! I'M SEEING HIM TONIGHT!
SEE YOU LATER, GUYS! I'M GOING ON PATROL.
OH, LOOK! AN ALIMONY CHECK FROM MR. "POND-SCUM" WATSON--ONLY THREE MONTHS LATE! THIS REALLY IS A WON-DERFUL WEDNESDAY!
MAYBE FOR YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! DENTON AND HIS BI-WEEKLY WRITER'S BLOCK BLUES! WHY DO YOU MAKE SUCH A TSIMMES OF THESE COMIC BOOK STORIES?!
SIT STILL--
Pounce
--I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
bat!
bat!




"THE BEAUTIFUL CLARISSA SITS AT THE WINDOW, DAY AFTER DAY, PINING AWAY..."
:SIGH: FATHER MEANS WELL, SHELTERING ME FROM LEERING RAKES AND ALL-- BUT I'M BECOMING AN OLD MAID!



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"WEEKS DRAG BY. FINALLY..."

RAFT AHOY!

INFIDELS, YOU HAVE DONE WELL! MY FATHER IS THE *CALIPH OF RANJIPOOR!* A TEMPEST WRECKED MY FLEET TO THE LAST VESSEL!

A TOUCHING TALE, IS IT NOT, *CAP'N?*

AYE, MR. *SCURVY!* AND HE'LL FETCH US A FAT *RANSOM*, I WEEN--

--OR WE'LL SEND HIM HOME IN MANY *LITTLE PIECES!* HARHAR!

"THE PRINCE IS DEAF, THOUGH, TO THEIR STUPID *THREATS!*"

THAT MAIDEN!

:SIGH:

"BETWEEN FLOGGINGS, THEY LOCK HIM IN THE *BRIG*..."

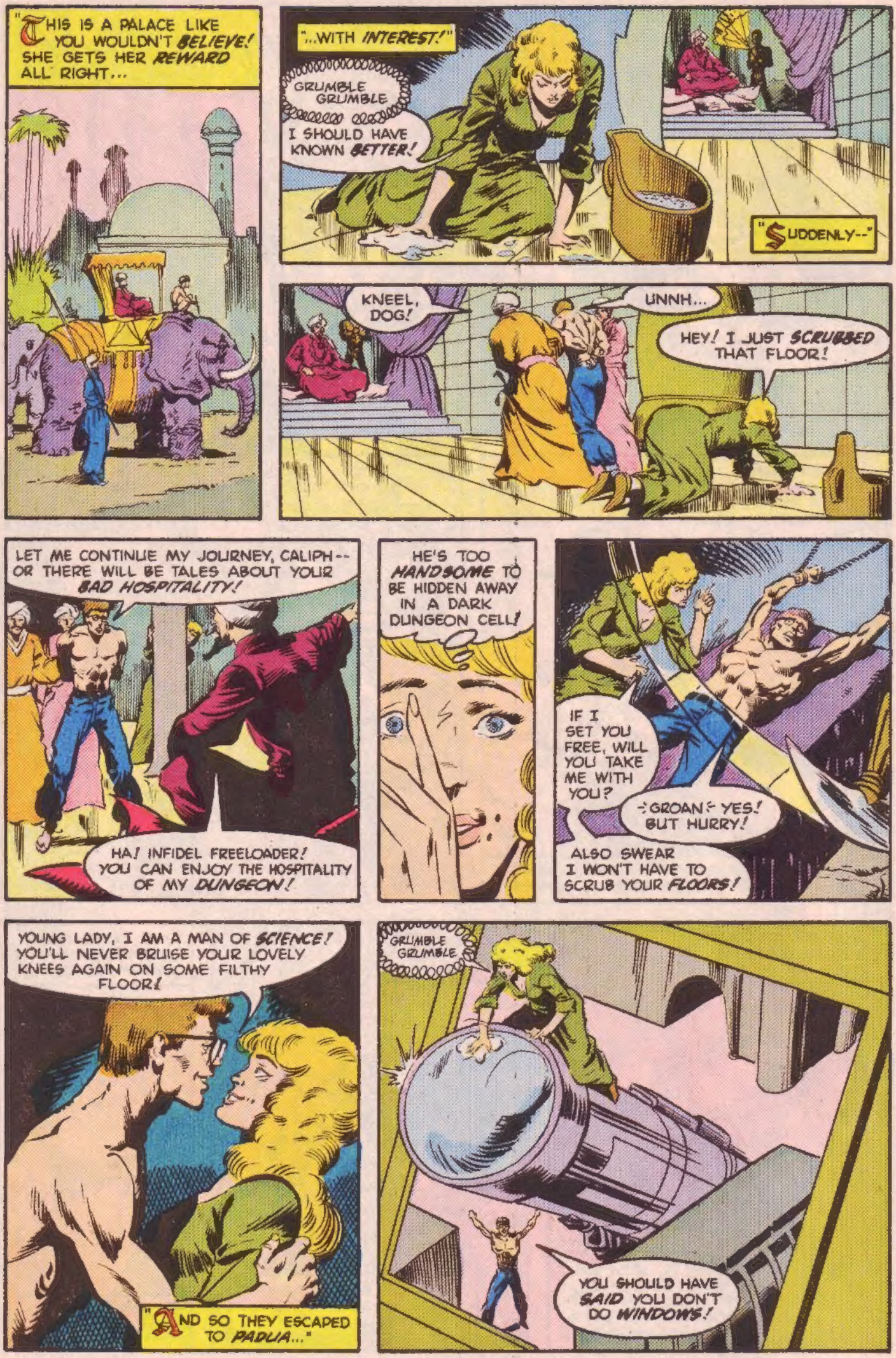
SH! I'LL SET YOU FREE, BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE ME WITH YOU!

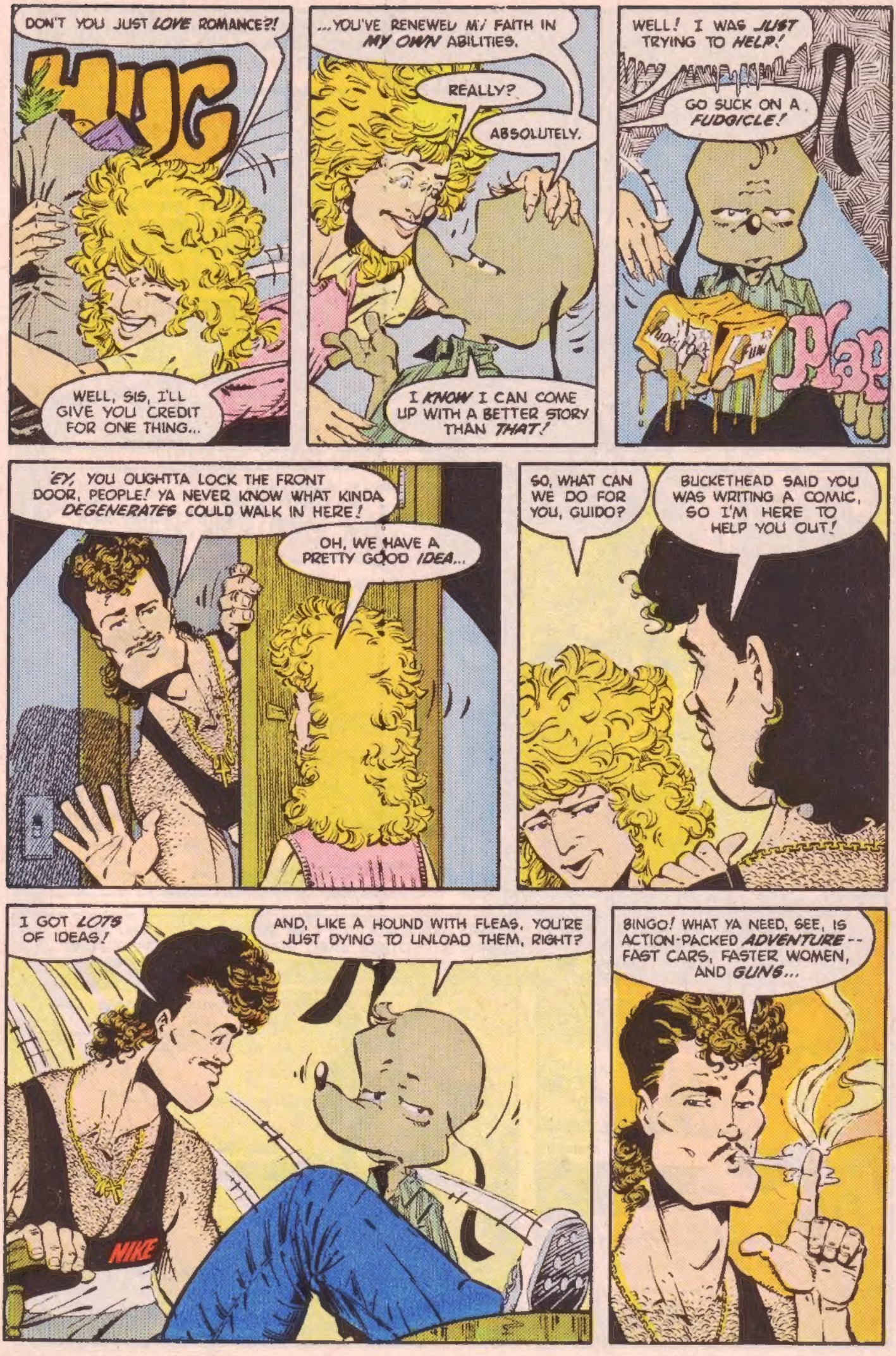
GLADLY! YOUR REWARD WAITS IN *RANJIPOOR!*

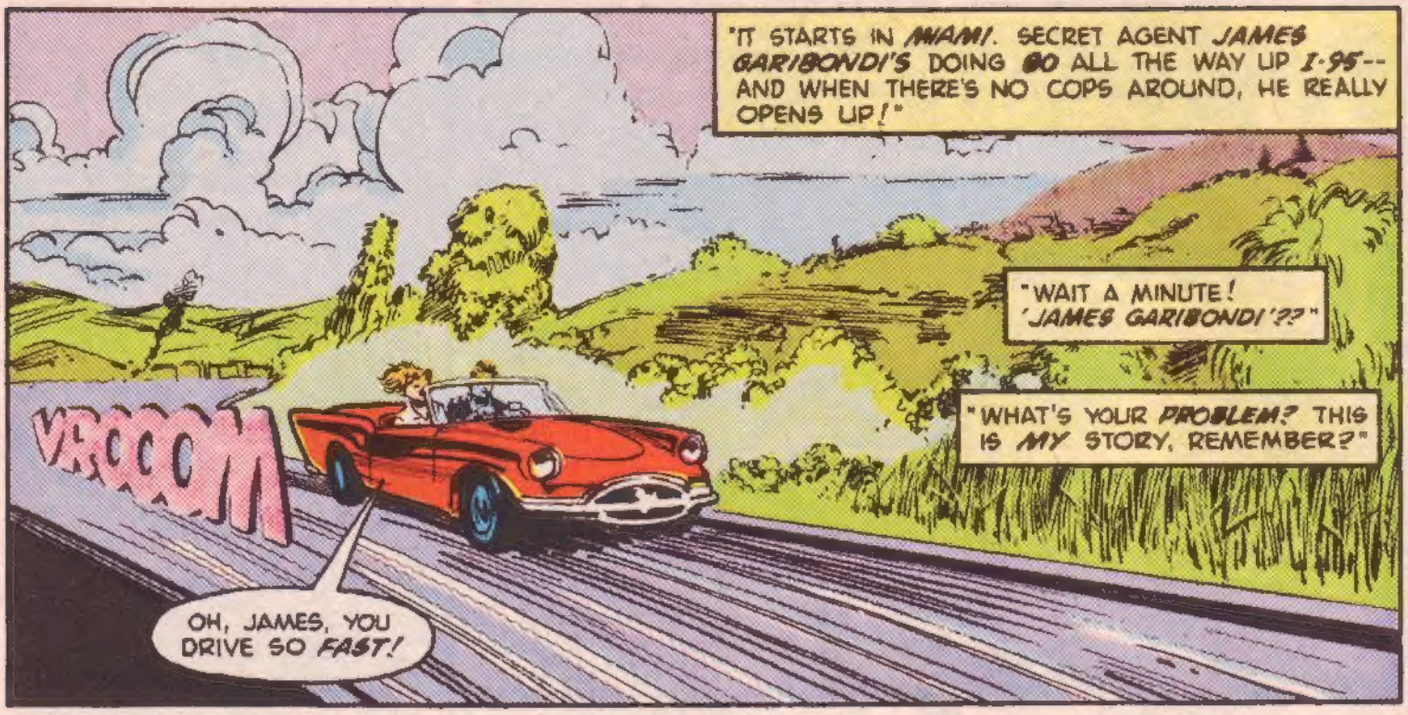
"THERE'S A BATTLE, OF COURSE, BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN WORK UP A SWEAT!

"EVEN GIVES THAT SEXIST CAPTAIN A *SHARP LESSON!*

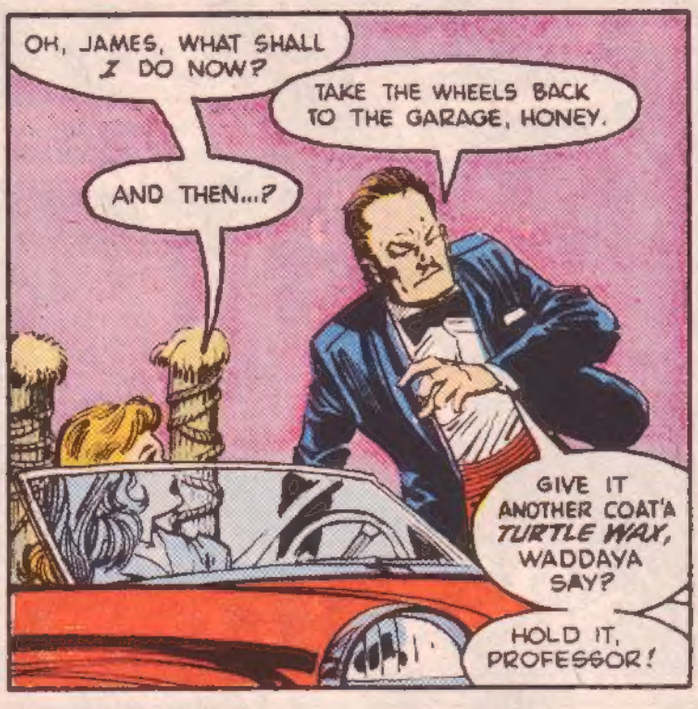
"NEXT STOP -- *RANJIPOOR!*"

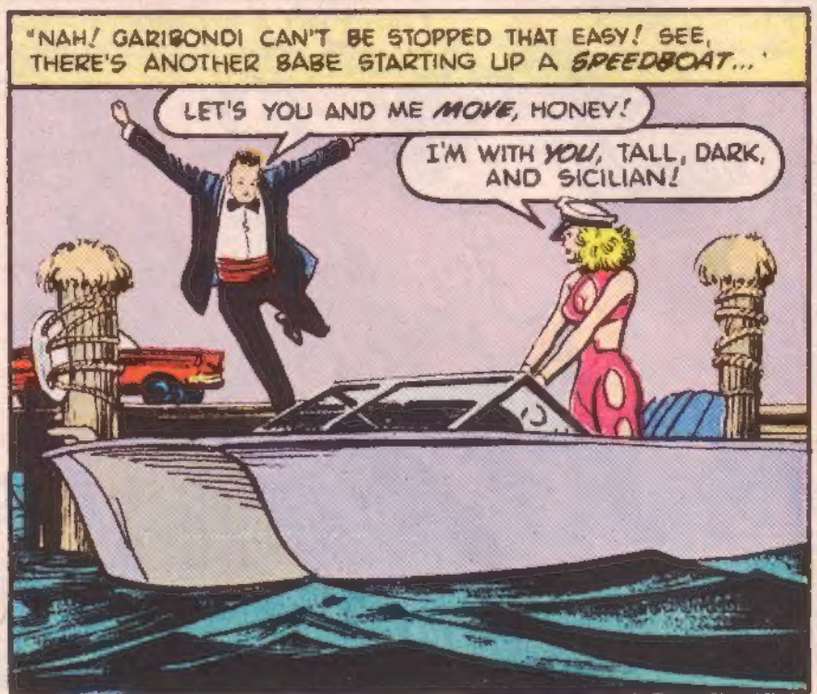

"THIS IS A PALACE LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE! SHE GETS HER REWARD ALL RIGHT...
"...WITH INTEREST!"
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!
"SUDDENLY--"
KNEEL, DOG!
UNNH...
HEY! I JUST SCRUBBED THAT FLOOR!
LET ME CONTINUE MY JOURNEY, CALIPH-- OR THERE WILL BE TALES ABOUT YOUR BAD HOSPITALITY!
HA! INFIDEL FREELOADER! YOU CAN ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF MY DUNGEON!
HE'S TOO HANDSOME TO BE HIDDEN AWAY IN A DARK DUNGEON CELL!
IF I SET YOU FREE, WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?
-GROAN- YES! BUT HURRY!
ALSO SWEAR I WON'T HAVE TO SCRUB YOUR FLOORS!
YOUNG LADY, I AM A MAN OF SCIENCE! YOU'LL NEVER BRUISE YOUR LOVELY KNEES AGAIN ON SOME FILTHY FLOOR!
"AND SO THEY ESCAPED TO PADUA..."
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID YOU DON'T DO WINDOWS!


DON'T YOU JUST LOVE ROMANCE?!
HUG
WELL, SIS, I'LL GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR ONE THING...
...YOU'VE RENEWED MY FAITH IN MY OWN ABILITIES.
REALLY?
ABSOLUTELY.
I KNOW I CAN COME UP WITH A BETTER STORY THAN THAT!
WELL! I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP!
GO SUCK ON A FUDGICLE!
Plop
'EY, YOU OUGHTTA LOCK THE FRONT DOOR, PEOPLE! YA NEVER KNOW WHAT KINDA DEGENERATES COULD WALK IN HERE!
OH, WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA...
SO, WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU, GUIDO?
BUCKETHEAD SAID YOU WAS WRITING A COMIC, SO I'M HERE TO HELP YOU OUT!
I GOT LOTS OF IDEAS!
AND, LIKE A HOUND WITH FLEAS, YOU'RE JUST DYING TO UNLOAD THEM, RIGHT?
NIKE
BINGO! WHAT YA NEED, SEE, IS ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE -- FAST CARS, FASTER WOMEN, AND GUNS...


"IT STARTS IN MIAMI. SECRET AGENT JAMES GARIBONDI'S DOING 80 ALL THE WAY UP I-95--AND WHEN THERE'S NO COPS AROUND, HE REALLY OPENS UP!"
"WAIT A MINUTE! 'JAMES GARIBONDI'??"
"WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? THIS IS MY STORY, REMEMBER?"
VA-OOOM
OH, JAMES, YOU DRIVE SO FAST!

"HE'S ON THE TRAIL OF THIS ORIENTAL MASTER CRIMINAL, THIS PROFESSOR IHN, WHO'S FLOODING THE MARKET WITH, UH, CHEAP MEN'S COLOGNE!"
'EY! GOTTA MAKE UP FOR THEM INTIMATE MOMENTS WE HAD TOGETHER, DOLL--RIGHT?
VA-OOOOMM


OH, JAMES, WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?
TAKE THE WHEELS BACK TO THE GARAGE, HONEY.
AND THEN...?
GIVE IT ANOTHER COAT'A TURTLE WAX, WADDAYA SAY?
HOLD IT, PROFESSOR!


"NAH! GARIBONDI CAN'T BE STOPPED THAT EASY! SEE, THERE'S ANOTHER BABE STARTING UP A SPEEDBOAT..."
LET'S YOU AND ME MOVE, HONEY!
I'M WITH YOU, TALL, DARK, AND SICILIAN!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

"THE CHASE IS ON, BUT IHN'S BOAT'S TOO FAST!"
WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM! HIS BOAT IS FUELED WITH PLUTONIUM OR SOMETHING!
NO SWEAT! I CAN STILL STOP HIM...
...WITH THIS!
A PEN?? YOU'RE PLANNING TO WRITE HIM A NOTE?
SQUEAK
CREAK
'EY, THIS AIN'T NO ORDINARY PEN! COUPLE'A TWISTS 'N' WHATNOT...
SWOOOOSH
...AND IT DELIVERS A BIG MESSAGE!
KLAK
COMES WITH A PIGGYBACK CARTRIDGE, TOO!
ADMIRABLE ATTEMPT, MY TWICE-SHAMED FOE!
TOUGH BREAK, JAMES. GUESS WE'D BETTER GO BELOW AND MAKE OUT, HUH?
SORRY, HONEY--I GOT TO FLY!
HALF A MINUTE LATE, BABY. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
OH! NOT... DISCIPLINARY ACTION?!
'FRAID SO. GOTTA REPORT THIS TO "M".
WHEW! I THOUGHT YOU MEANT YOU'D CANCEL OUR DINNER DATE!

"OKAY--SO HE PICKS UP IHN'S TRAIL, AND HE'S IN, LIKE, SINGAPORE OR SAIGON OR SOMETHING..."
OH, LOOK AT THAT PITIFUL CRIPPLED BEGGAR!
HELP A POOR MAN, KIND SIR.
HERE Y'GO, PAL. BUY Y'SELF A NEW TIN CUP!
"SUDDENLY, HE'S SURROUNDED BY THREE BIG THUGS! I'M TALKING BIG, Y'SEE--AND EACH ONE'S A MASTER NINJA!"
LEMME GUESS...THE PROFESSOR SENT YOU TO PLAY WITH ME, RIGHT? WELL...
...TELL HIM I ALWAYS APPRECIATE A WORKOUT!
YOW!
ON SECOND THOUGHT...
EEEEK!
YAGGH!
WHAM
UNH!
...I'LL TELL HIM MYSELF!
KRUNCH
JAMES! WHY DID YOU GO AND HURT THAT POOR LITTLE BEGGAR MAN?
'EY, I KNEW RIGHT AWAY, THAT PHONEY BEGGAR WAS ACTUALLY PROFESSOR IHN! CAN'T MISS HIS CHEAP COLOGNE, Y'SEE.
GUESS YOU'D HAVETA CALL IT, HEH-HEH, IHN-STINK! HA!
"IHN-STINK! DON'CHA GET IT?!"

I GOT IT.
SO--START TYPING!
GUIDO, THERE'S A REASON I'M A WRITER AND YOU WORK IN THREE SHOE STORES.
SURE, I CAN'T TYPE.
RIGHT. AND I CAN'T TIE SHOELACES FAST ENOUGH.
WHAT OTHER GREAT STORIES ARE GOING TO WALK INTO MY LIFE?
HUMP
MMMMM...LOVE THAT PERFUME!
EDDIE!
UH, HI, BOYS MAZE SENT US OVER TO HELP OUT.
I SEE. YOU TWO HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO ON A WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON... YOU JUST HAD TO RUN OVER, HUH?
WELL, WE COULD HAVE FOUND SOMETHING TO DO. LIKE EXERCISE, MAYBE. RIGHT, BREN?
WE'VE EXERCISED ENOUGH ALREADY! IT WAS TIME TO COME UP FOR AIR!
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU KEPT PANTING SO MUCH?
YOU SAID YOU HAD A STORY, EDDIE!
YOU BET I DO! BETTER GO DOWNSTAIRS IF YOU GOT A WEAK HEART, PEOPLE, 'CAUSE THIS ONE IS GRUESOME, WITH A CAPITAL G!

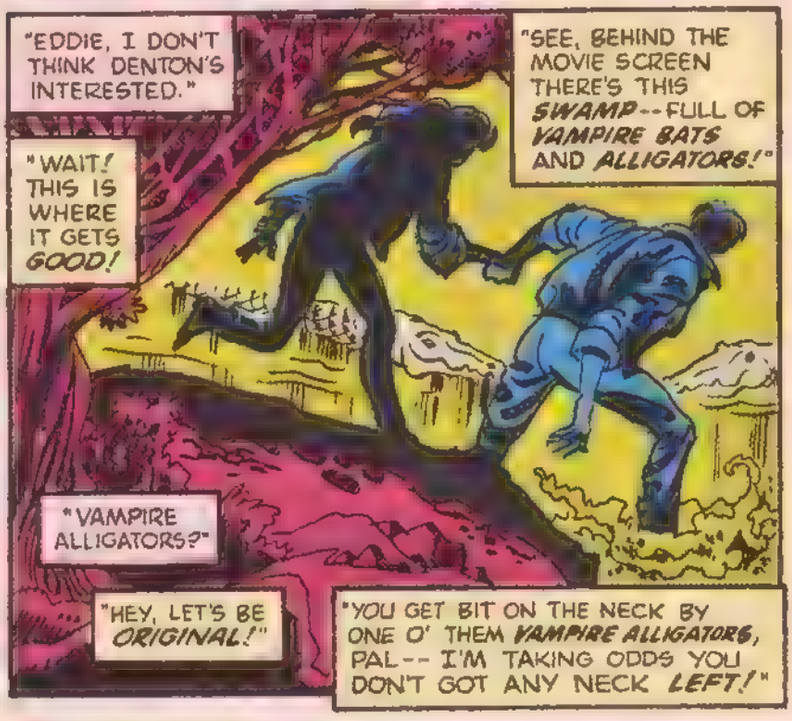
"IT STARTS IN A DRIVE-IN MOVIE. THIS GUY AND HIS GIRLFRIEND ARE WATCHING *LUNCH OF THE LIVING DEAD*..."
"'EY, GOOMBAH -- NOBODY I KNOWS WATCHES *NOTHING* AT A DRIVE-IN MOVIE... IF YA GET MY DRIFT!"
"OKAY, THEY'RE NOT REALLY *WATCHING* THE MOVIE...THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T NOTICE THAT, *SUDDENLY*, EVERYONE AROUND THEM LOOKS JUST LIKE THE *LIVING DEAD!*

"THEN, AT THE LAST MINUTE..."
WHEW! WHAT'S THAT *SMELL?*
OH, MY *GAHHHHD!*

EEEEEEEEEK!
WHUH?
"THE GUY--HE'S A *SCIENTIST*, BUT NOT AN *INTELLECTUAL* OR ANYTHING..."

I *KNEW* THEY SHOULDN'T'A DUMPED CHEMICAL WASTE INTO THE TOWN CEMETERY!
CRACK

"THEY'VE GOTTA RUN FOR THEIR LIVES!
"LUCKILY, THE ZOMBIES CAN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH UP WITH THE *LIVING ALIVE!*"


"EDDIE, I DON'T THINK DENTON'S INTERESTED."
"WAIT! THIS IS WHERE IT GETS *GOOD!*
"SEE, BEHIND THE MOVIE SCREEN THERE'S THIS *SWAMP*--FULL OF *VAMPIRE BATS* AND *ALLIGATORS!*"
"VAMPIRE ALLIGATORS?"
"HEY, LET'S BE *ORIGINAL!*"
"YOU GET BIT ON THE NECK BY ONE O' THEM *VAMPIRE ALLIGATORS*, PAL-- I'M TAKING ODDS YOU DON'T GOT ANY NECK *LEFT!*"

"OKAY -- REGULAR ALLIGATORS, THEN. BUT VAMPIRE *BATS* -- AND LOTS OF *QUICKSAND!* ALL OF A SUDDEN..."

EEEEK! I'M *SI-I-INKING!*

SPLOOSH

JUST RELAX! I'LL PULL YOU OUT!

"HE WAS A *BIG JOCK* IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HE'S STILL IN FABULOUS SHAPE AND ALL, BUT HE'S HAVING TROUBLE FOR SOME REASON..."

QUICKSAND WASN'T PULLING YOU UNDER! IT WAS THE *CRAWLING HANDS* OF THE SWAMP!

"DA-DUH-DUNH-*DAAAAAAH!*"

"THIS IS SCARY, HUH? ANYWAY, JUST IN TIME..."

WHACK

YAAAGH -GLUB-

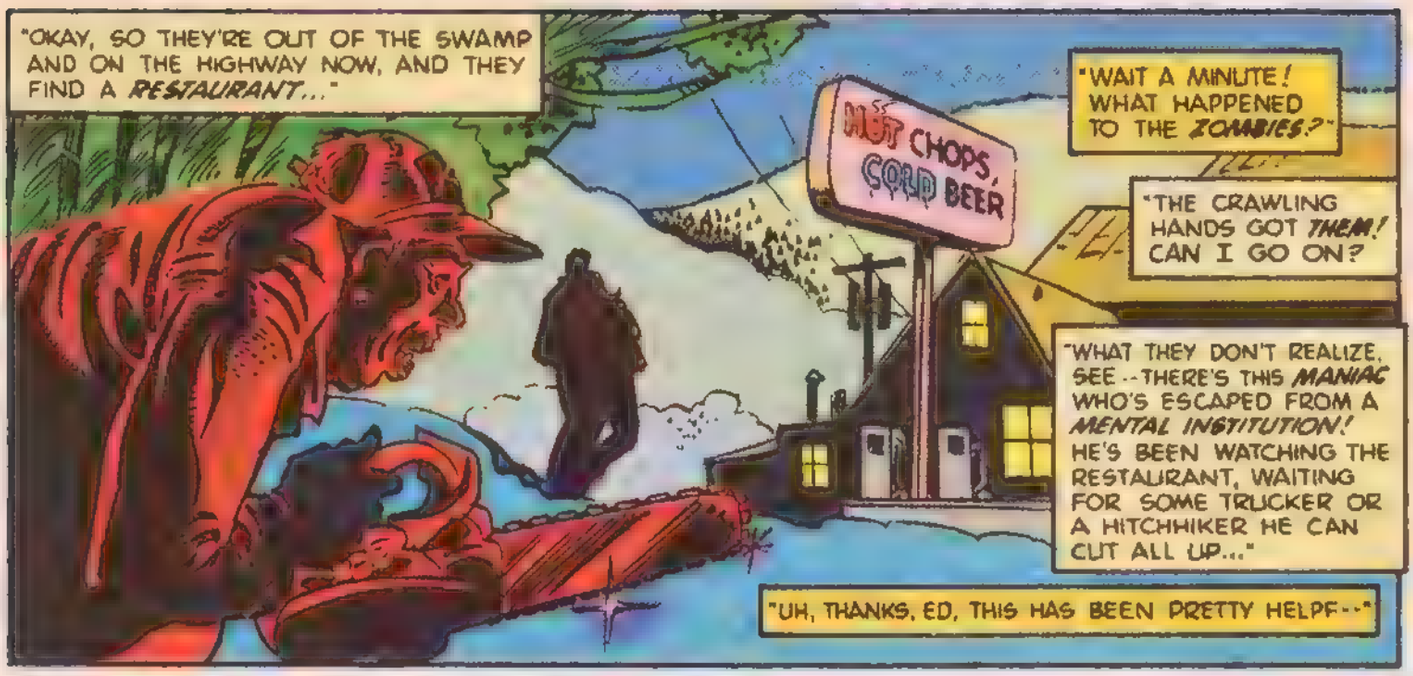
LISTEN, HEAR THAT? CARS SPEEDING PAST THE HIGHWAY'S UP AHEAD.

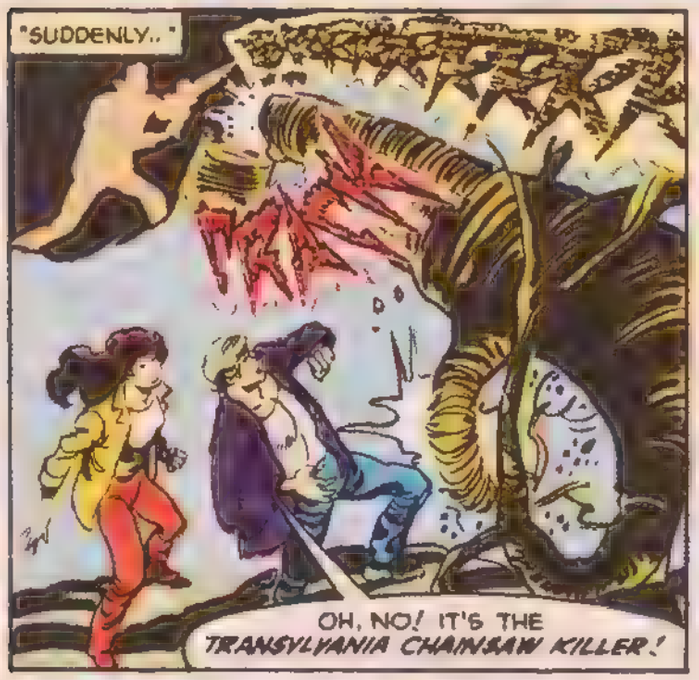
NO! NOT... *THE HIGHWAY!*

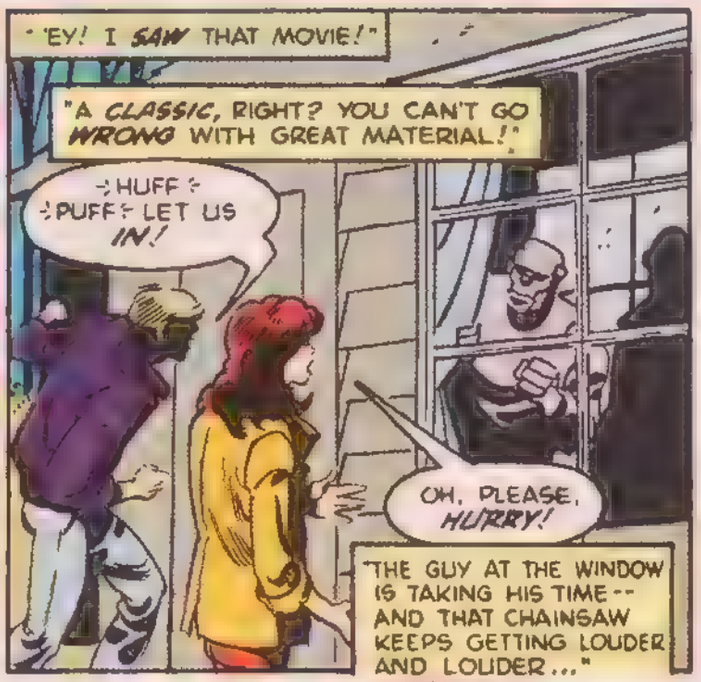
"I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ASK THIS, BUT *WHY* IS SHE AFRAID OF THE HIGHWAY?"

"WELL, UM, WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, HER FATHER WAS TRAPPED WHEN AN *ASPHALT TRUCK* SPILLED ITS LOAD AND --"

"I *KNEW* I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED..."

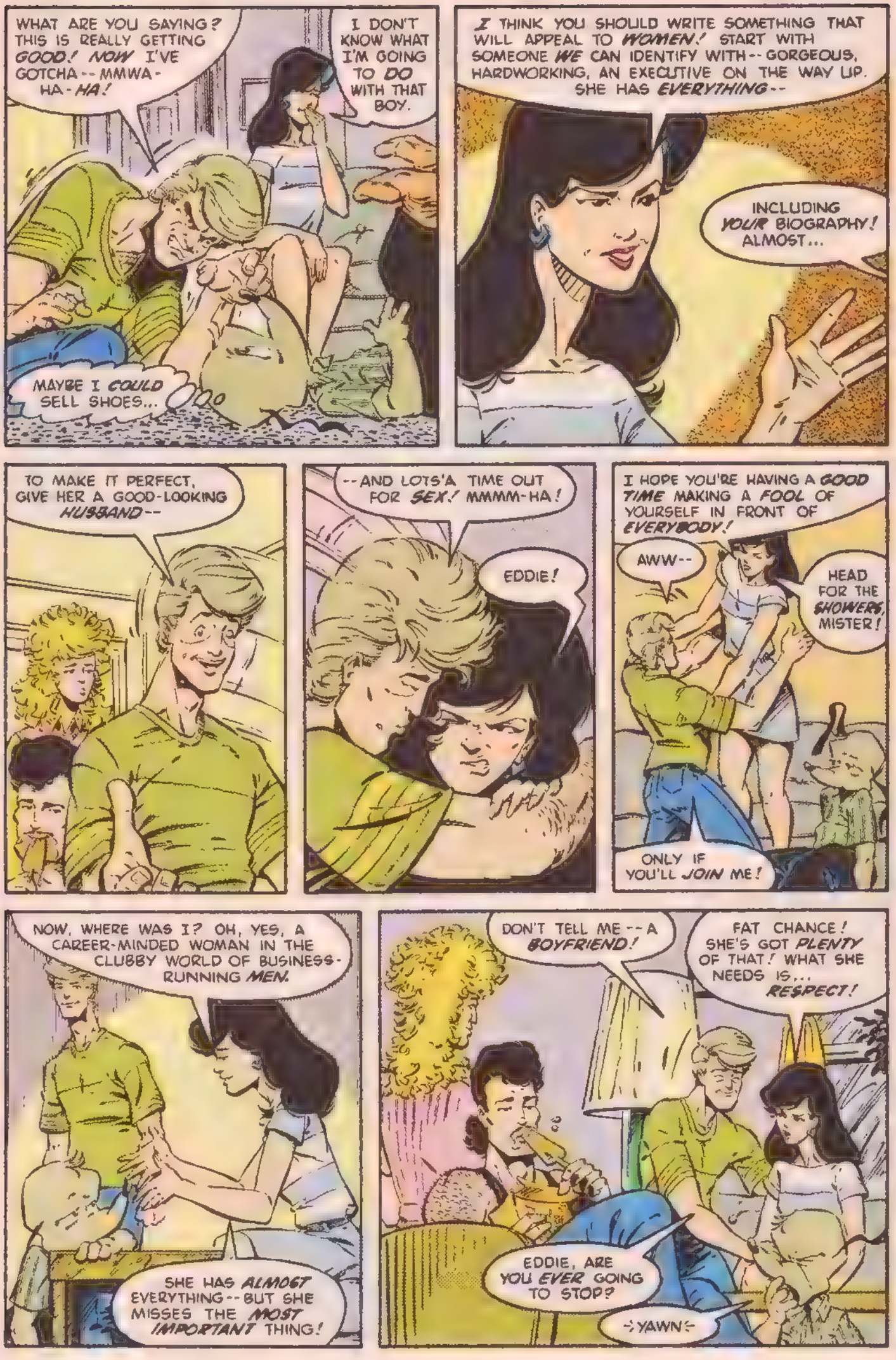

"OKAY, SO THEY'RE OUT OF THE SWAMP AND ON THE HIGHWAY NOW, AND THEY FIND A RESTAURANT..."
HOT CHOPS, COLD BEER
"WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ZOMBIES?"
"THE CRAWLING HANDS GOT THEM! CAN I GO ON?
"WHAT THEY DON'T REALIZE, SEE--THERE'S THIS MANIAC WHO'S ESCAPED FROM A MENTAL INSTITUTION! HE'S BEEN WATCHING THE RESTAURANT, WAITING FOR SOME TRUCKER OR A HITCHHIKER HE CAN CUT ALL UP..."
"UH, THANKS, ED, THIS HAS BEEN PRETTY HELPF--"

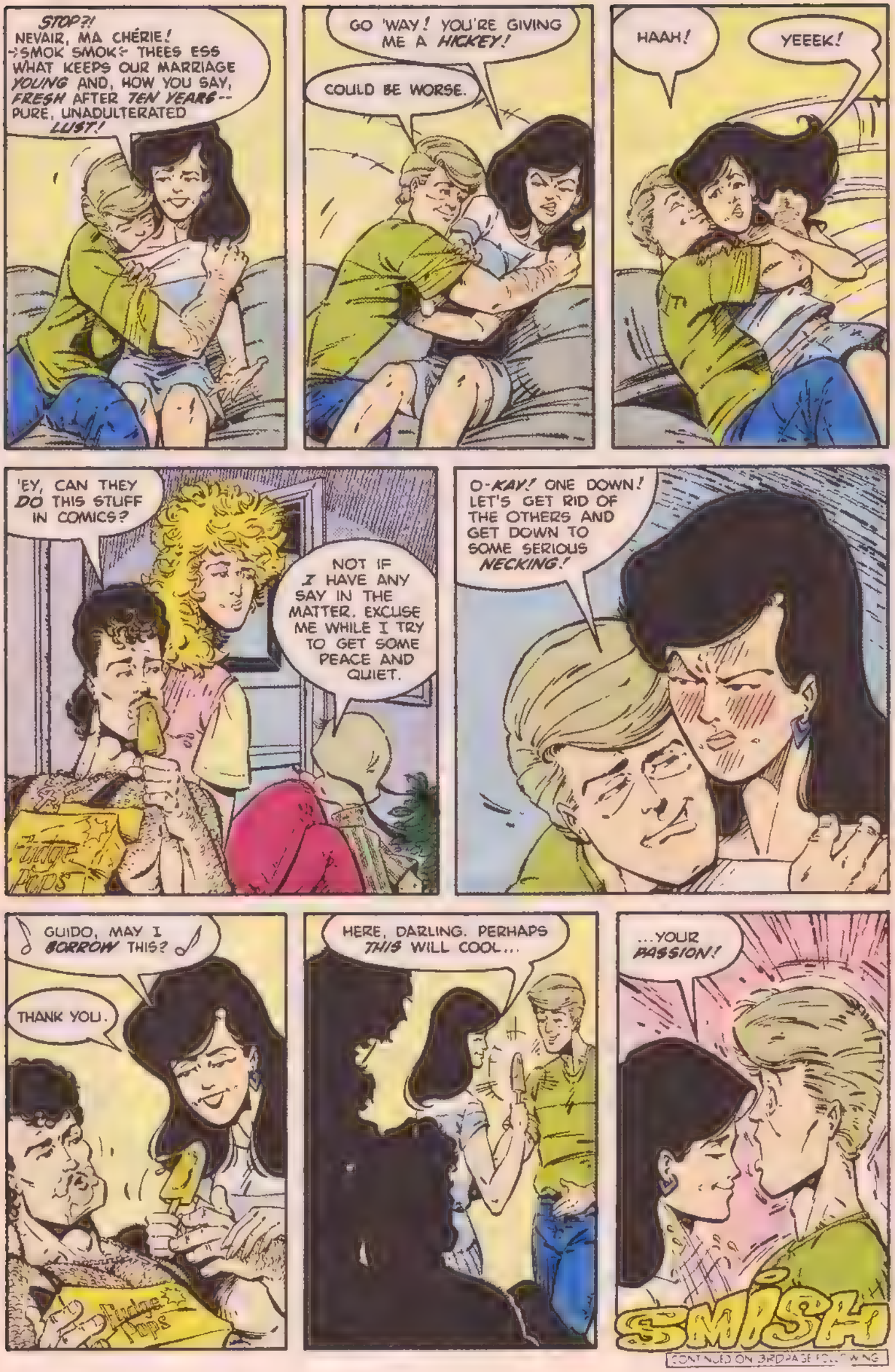

"SUDDENLY.."
OH, NO! IT'S THE TRANSYLVANIA CHAINSAW KILLER!

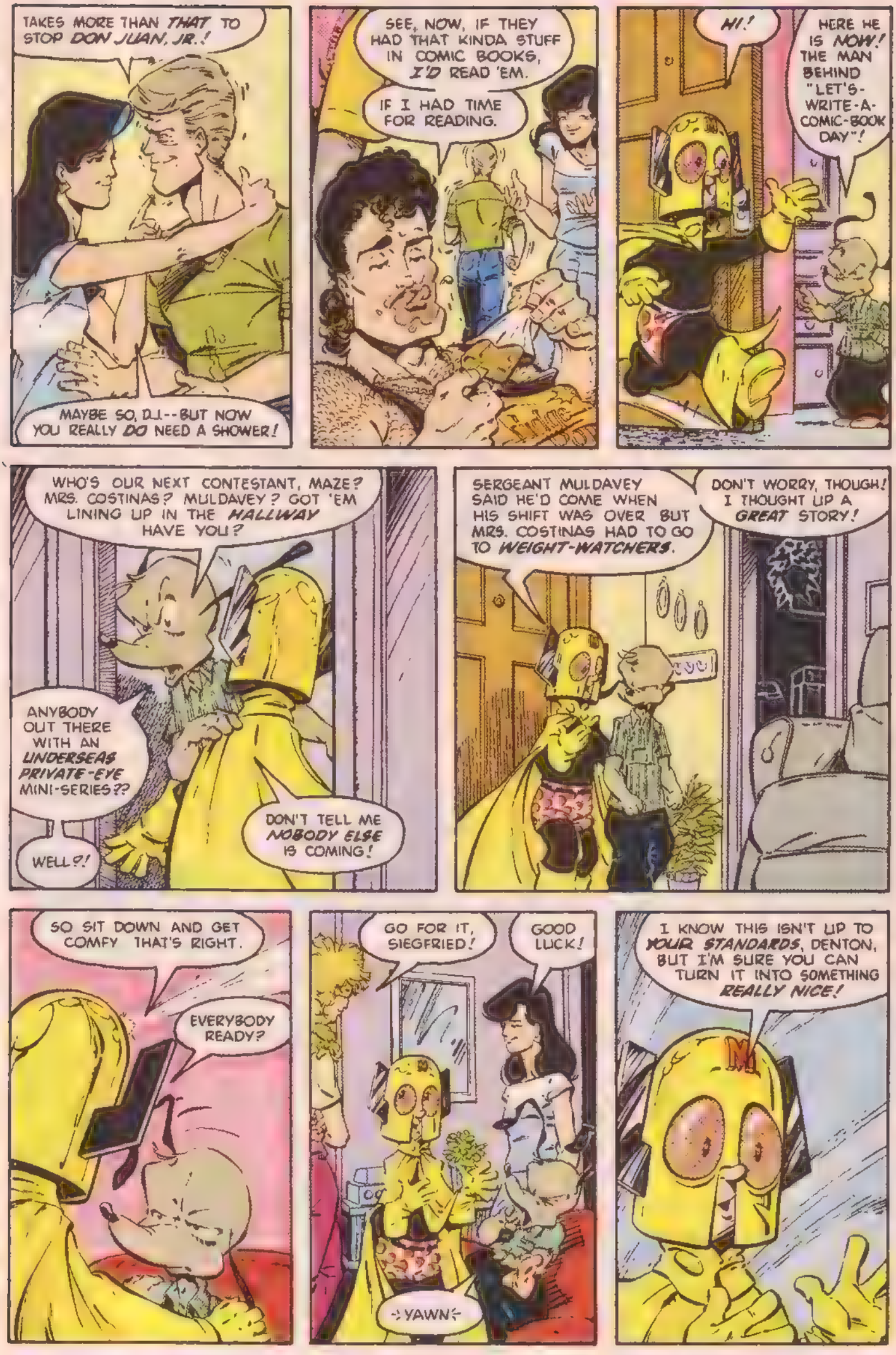

"EY! I SAW THAT MOVIE!"
"A CLASSIC, RIGHT? YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH GREAT MATERIAL!"
:HUFF: :PUFF: LET US IN!
OH, PLEASE, HURRY!
"THE GUY AT THE WINDOW IS TAKING HIS TIME--AND THAT CHAINSAW KEEPS GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER..."

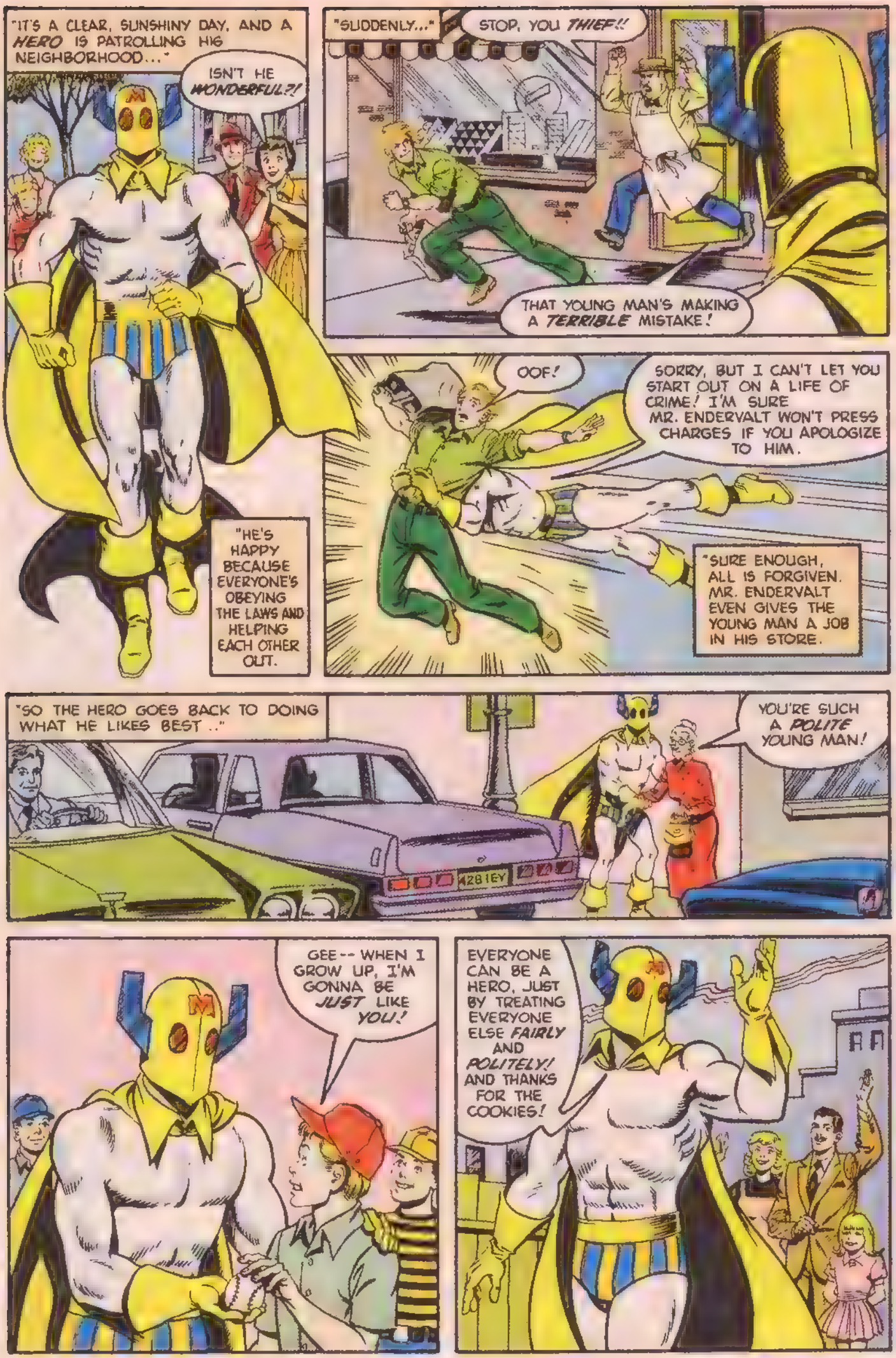
CAN WE USE YOUR PHO--WOH, NO!
COUSIN FERDIE--HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU...
EEEEEK!

...AND SO DO I!! HRRARR!
HINH--HINH--HINH!
"THAT'S ENOUGH, EDDIE. GIVE US A BREAK!"


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS IS REALLY GETTING GOOD! NOW I'VE GOTCHA -- MMWA-HA-HA!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH THAT BOY.
MAYBE I COULD SELL SHOES...
I THINK YOU SHOULD WRITE SOMETHING THAT WILL APPEAL TO WOMEN! START WITH SOMEONE WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH -- GORGEOUS, HARDWORKING, AN EXECUTIVE ON THE WAY UP. SHE HAS EVERYTHING --
INCLUDING YOUR BIOGRAPHY! ALMOST...
TO MAKE IT PERFECT, GIVE HER A GOOD-LOOKING HUSBAND --
--AND LOTS'A TIME OUT FOR SEX! MMMM-HA!
EDDIE!
I HOPE YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!
AWW--
HEAD FOR THE SHOWERS, MISTER!
ONLY IF YOU'LL JOIN ME!
NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH, YES, A CAREER-MINDED WOMAN IN THE CLUBBY WORLD OF BUSINESS-RUNNING MEN.
SHE HAS ALMOST EVERYTHING -- BUT SHE MISSES THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!
DON'T TELL ME -- A BOYFRIEND!
FAT CHANCE! SHE'S GOT PLENTY OF THAT! WHAT SHE NEEDS IS... RESPECT!
EDDIE, ARE YOU EVER GOING TO STOP?
-YAWN-


STOP?!
NEVAIR, MA CHÉRIE! ~SMOK SMOK~ THEES ESS WHAT KEEPS OUR MARRIAGE YOUNG AND, HOW YOU SAY, FRESH AFTER TEN YEARS-- PURE, UNADULTERATED LUST!
GO 'WAY! YOU'RE GIVING ME A HICKEY!
COULD BE WORSE.
HAAH!
YEEEK!
'EY, CAN THEY DO THIS STUFF IN COMICS?
NOT IF I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER. EXCUSE ME WHILE I TRY TO GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET.
Fudge Pops
O-KAY! ONE DOWN! LET'S GET RID OF THE OTHERS AND GET DOWN TO SOME SERIOUS NECKING!
GUIDO, MAY I BORROW THIS?
THANK YOU.
Fudge Pops
HERE, DARLING. PERHAPS THIS WILL COOL...
...YOUR PASSION!
SMASH
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING


TAKES MORE THAN THAT TO STOP DON JUAN, JR.!
MAYBE SO, D.J.--BUT NOW YOU REALLY DO NEED A SHOWER!
SEE, NOW, IF THEY HAD THAT KINDA STUFF IN COMIC BOOKS, I'D READ 'EM.
IF I HAD TIME FOR READING.
HI!
HERE HE IS NOW! THE MAN BEHIND "LET'S-WRITE-A-COMIC-BOOK DAY"!
WHO'S OUR NEXT CONTESTANT, MAZE? MRS. COSTINAS? MULDAVEY? GOT 'EM LINING UP IN THE HALLWAY HAVE YOU?
ANYBODY OUT THERE WITH AN UNDERSEAS PRIVATE-EYE MINI-SERIES??
WELL?!
DON'T TELL ME NOBODY ELSE IS COMING!
SERGEANT MULDAVEY SAID HE'D COME WHEN HIS SHIFT WAS OVER BUT MRS. COSTINAS HAD TO GO TO WEIGHT-WATCHERS.
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH! I THOUGHT UP A GREAT STORY!
SO SIT DOWN AND GET COMFY THAT'S RIGHT.
EVERYBODY READY?
GO FOR IT, SIEGFRIED!
GOOD LUCK!
-YAWN-
I KNOW THIS ISN'T UP TO YOUR STANDARDS, DENTON, BUT I'M SURE YOU CAN TURN IT INTO SOMETHING REALLY NICE!


"IT'S A CLEAR, SUNSHINY DAY, AND A HERO IS PATROLLING HIS NEIGHBORHOOD..."
ISN'T HE WONDERFUL?!
"HE'S HAPPY BECAUSE EVERYONE'S OBEYING THE LAWS AND HELPING EACH OTHER OUT.
"SUDDENLY..."
STOP, YOU THIEF!!
THAT YOUNG MAN'S MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!
OOF!
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU START OUT ON A LIFE OF CRIME! I'M SURE MR. ENDERVALT WON'T PRESS CHARGES IF YOU APOLOGIZE TO HIM.
"SURE ENOUGH, ALL IS FORGIVEN. MR. ENDERVALT EVEN GIVES THE YOUNG MAN A JOB IN HIS STORE.
"SO THE HERO GOES BACK TO DOING WHAT HE LIKES BEST .."
YOU'RE SUCH A POLITE YOUNG MAN!
428 IEY
GEE -- WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GONNA BE JUST LIKE YOU!
EVERYONE CAN BE A HERO, JUST BY TREATING EVERYONE ELSE FAIRLY AND POLITELY! AND THANKS FOR THE COOKIES!

"ONE DAY, A REPORTER FROM THE NEWSPAPER COMES TO INTERVIEW THE HERO."

IF MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT YOU, THIS WOULD BE A PRETTY NICE TOWN TO LIVE IN!

THAT SOUNDS ALL RIGHT TO ME!

"AND, THE NEXT DAY..."

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

DAILY STAR

HE KEEPS HIS NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE!

"HE'S A HERO ALL OVER THE CITY! PEOPLE ARE *STARVED* FOR HEROES, YOU KNOW, AND THEY'RE *SO GLAD* TO KNOW SOMEONE'S THERE TO *HELP* THEM!"

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PLAYING YOU IN THE *TV MOVIE?*

"IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, ONLY ONE MAN NOTICES AN EMERGENCY ABOUT TO HAPPEN!"

WTBR-TV

I GO BYE-BYE.

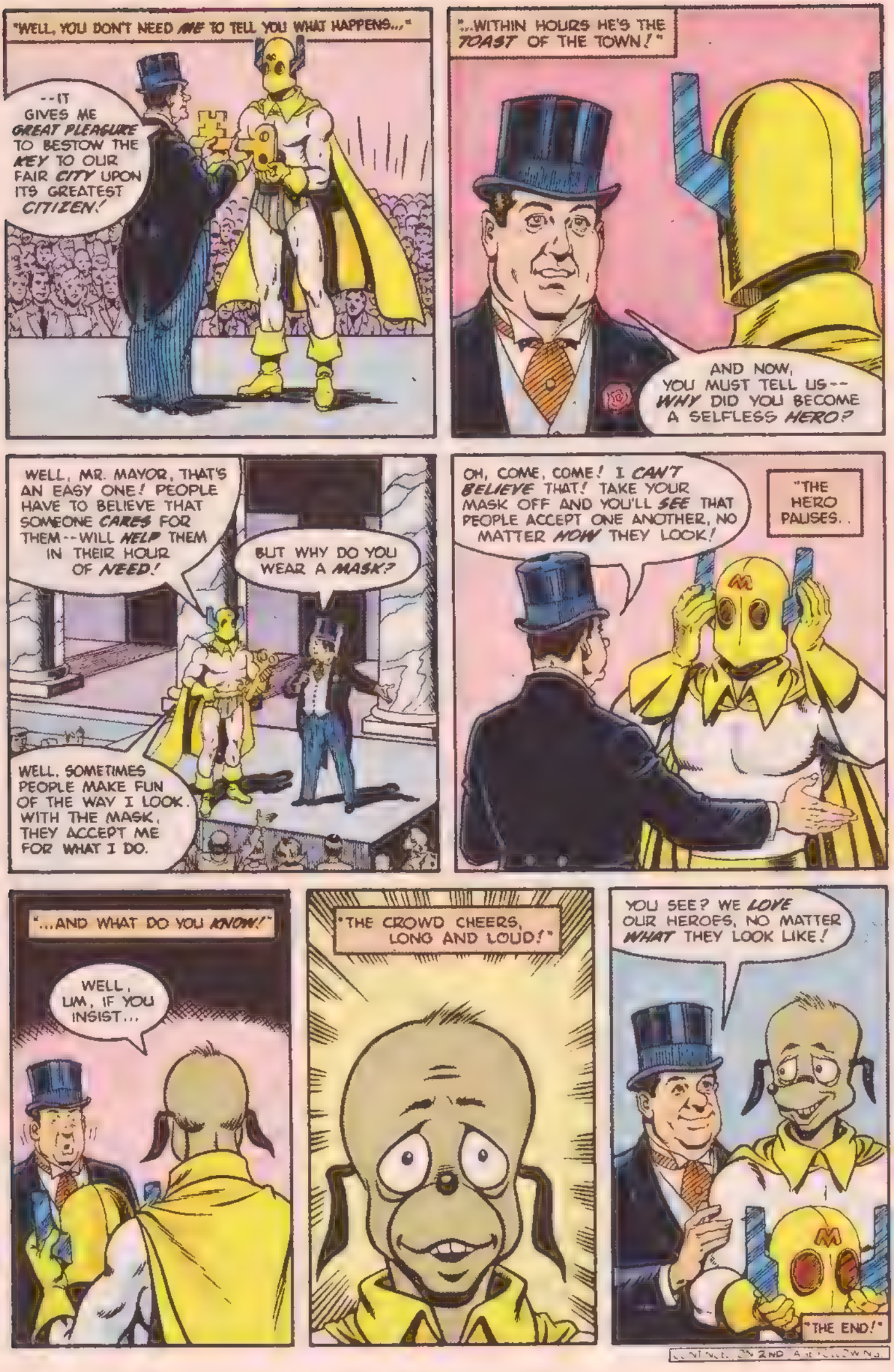
BEEP BEEP

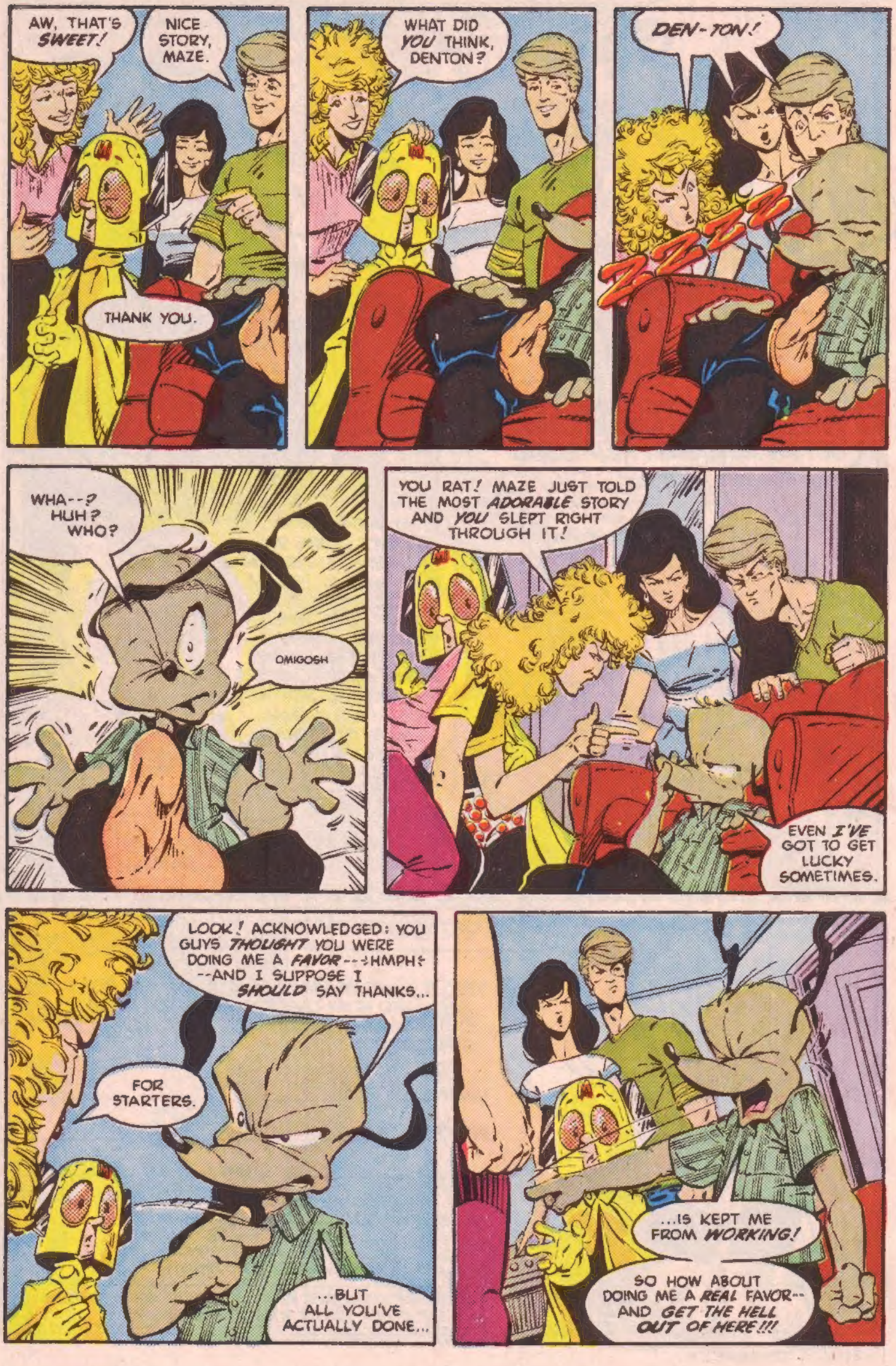
PLEASE, EXCUSE ME A MOMENT!

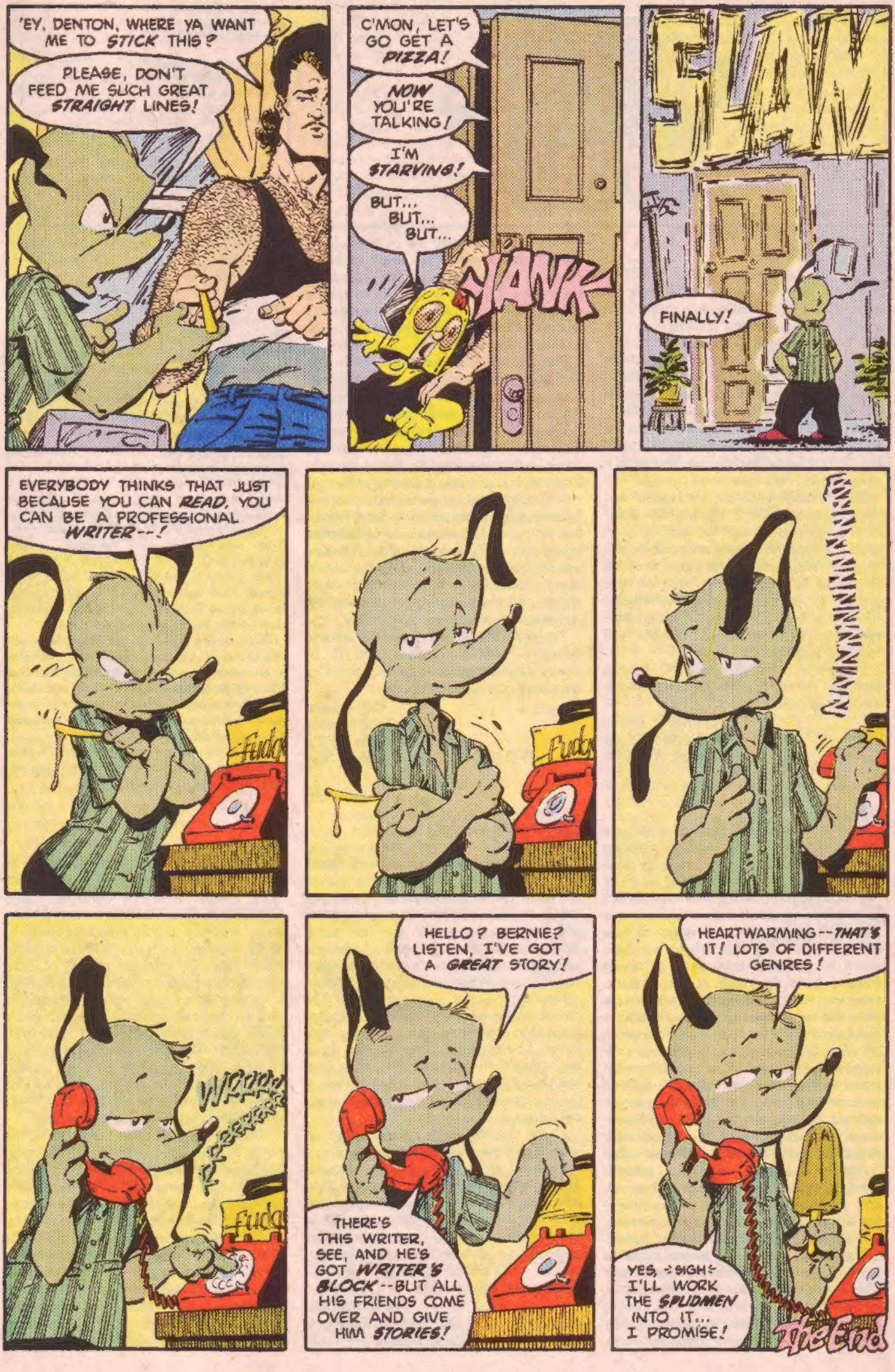
HAVE YOU GOT IT ALL ON TAPE?

YOU BET!

BEEEEEP


"WELL, YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS..."
--IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BESTOW THE KEY TO OUR FAIR CITY UPON ITS GREATEST CITIZEN!
"...WITHIN HOURS HE'S THE TOAST OF THE TOWN!"
AND NOW, YOU MUST TELL US-- WHY DID YOU BECOME A SELFLESS HERO?
WELL, MR. MAYOR, THAT'S AN EASY ONE! PEOPLE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE CARES FOR THEM--WILL HELP THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED!
BUT WHY DO YOU WEAR A MASK?
WELL, SOMETIMES PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THE WAY I LOOK. WITH THE MASK, THEY ACCEPT ME FOR WHAT I DO.
OH, COME, COME! I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT! TAKE YOUR MASK OFF AND YOU'LL SEE THAT PEOPLE ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER, NO MATTER HOW THEY LOOK!
"THE HERO PAUSES..
"...AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW!"
WELL, UM, IF YOU INSIST...
"THE CROWD CHEERS, LONG AND LOUD!"
YOU SEE? WE LOVE OUR HEROES, NO MATTER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE!
"THE END!"


AW, THAT'S SWEET!
NICE STORY, MAZE.
THANK YOU.
WHAT DID YOU THINK, DENTON?
DEN-TON!
ZZZZZZ
WHA--? HUH? WHO?
OMIGOSH
YOU RAT! MAZE JUST TOLD THE MOST ADORABLE STORY AND YOU SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH IT!
EVEN I'VE GOT TO GET LUCKY SOMETIMES.
LOOK! ACKNOWLEDGED: YOU GUYS THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING ME A FAVOR--:HMPH: --AND I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY THANKS...
FOR STARTERS.
...BUT ALL YOU'VE ACTUALLY DONE...
...IS KEPT ME FROM WORKING!
SO HOW ABOUT DOING ME A REAL FAVOR-- AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!!


'EY, DENTON, WHERE YA WANT ME TO STICK THIS?
PLEASE, DON'T FEED ME SUCH GREAT STRAIGHT LINES!
C'MON, LET'S GO GET A PIZZA!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!
I'M STARVING!
BUT... BUT... BUT...
YANK
SLAM
FINALLY!
EVERYBODY THINKS THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN READ, YOU CAN BE A PROFESSIONAL WRITER--!
RINNNN

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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Dear Alan:

I think I'm in love.

I just read an *amazing* book—'MAZING MAN #1. Time will only tell if the book will expand from its current base or shrink even smaller or start running around in circles. The book will have to grow and the characters will have to expand—a tough row to hoe in a humor book. The temptation is to keep going back over stuff that got laughs before rather than explore new territory.

But did I like #1? I adored it! What does the little guy want for Christmas? I'll buy it myself, put "From Santa" on the tag, and send it along to him. He's cuter than a panda.

I loved Brenda and Eddie, and I roared over the scene in the bank. Is 'Mazing Man a fool? Nope. If you go through life wanting to do good, then you'll eventually end up doing a lot of good—BVDs and all. He cares about his fellow man. Nothing silly about that. We're all grateful for small favors when we're going through a bad patch—and 'Mazing Man specializes in those normal, lovable, and touching small favors.

If you can't find a home with DC, 'Mazing Man, don't worry. I'll adopt you and we'll both live happily ever after.

Charles D. Brown
39 Stockton Street
Brentwood, NY 11717

*****

Dear Editor,

It *would* take a comic book to perpetuate the strengths of the best radio/TV situation comedies. Thanks to lack of time for viewing, 'MAZING MAN was the first reminder I've had in years of the ingredients necessary for an enduring, classic sitcom: likable heroes who can't be too much in control of their lives; a supporting cast whose members ought to give the impression of having stepped from the ranks of your friends, relatives, and/or co-workers; and simple plots that emphasize dialogue and character development. It's the characters from whom the comedy develops, and in whom you see your frailties magnified, a sensibility that informs the most successfully realized situation comedies. I'm glad the creators realized that a book about "a two-dimensional boob who foiled criminals by tripping into them" wasn't what the oversaturated comic book market needed at present: stories about people just being themselves, and trying to understand each other—humankind's main vocation, it often seems—are inherently hilarious, if difficult to pull off.

Denton's, then, is the perfect narrative voice for this series, the voice of a social misfit whose cynical detachment from his community is tempered by his strong, if necessarily quiet love for his friends, as well as a grudging admiration of Maze's irrepressible optimism (if only because the outcome of his absurd actions somehow seem to be to everyone's benefit). Denton can appreciate the ironies of life in a way the more worldly members of the supporting cast and the more quixotic Maze can't. He's the reader's liaison to the heart of the matter.

Rising to the challenge of the stories, Mr. DeStefano shows a lot of respect for and fluency in the expressive potential of cartooning, and I find his work charming without being at all cloying (a description I've never had cause to apply to any contemporary comic book artist except Arn Saba). Even the lettering and coloring contributed several individual moments of pleasure, such as the lightening/darkening panels on page 9 of the first story, and the unusually calligraphed sound effects. The dialogue, which I'll hazard was Mr. Rozakis's domain, was pithy and full of wit, and meshed beautifully with the art in allowing the characters to deliver their lines and reactions with impeccable timing.

To make a long story short, I enjoyed 'MAZING MAN's premiere, and I'll be around for the foreseeable future. Thanks for some *real* entertainment!

C.E. Dinkins
Third Division
USS Haleakala (AE-25)
FPO San Francisco, CA 96667-3004

*****

Dear Stephen and Bob,

Well, first the cons, then the pros...

My only cons are insignificant and stupid. First of all, the credits were not easily found (I say that because I could not find them; they may be there, in invisible ink), so I don't know who to compliment for the fine story! Second, where do I put a comic which starts with an apostrophe in my alphabetical listing? Oh, well, I'll just ask my English teacher.

Now for the pros. It was awesome! The rescue scene with the truck showed that Maze is in some ways more of a hero than Supes. I mean, what is the big deal if you know that the truck can't even muss your hair? But if you are a crazy little freak whose only super-power is courage ... that's what I call a hero.

I hope that Maze gets to meet some real pros, maybe even have a DCCP with him, or in someone else's book—I can see it now: The Outsiders, Teen Titans, Blue Devil, Firestorm, Ambush Bug ... meet 'Mazing Man!

Lemme recap: (1) give the credits; (2) let Maze meet others; (3) never, ever tell his origin. Finally, Bob, is there some way I can get DC RELEASES directly from DC? Thanks, and good work!

Rajesh Krishnan
1082 Old Northern Boulevard
Roslyn Estates, NY 11576

Du-uhh ... I *know* I planned to have a credit box *somewhere* in that first issue of 'MAZING MAN, Rajesh! Although it has never happened heretofore to my knowledge, it seems my identical-twin brother (also named Alan), who sometimes subs for me at DC Comics ... *he* made the error! Anyway, for the record, the credits for both stories in issue #1 are as follows: *Plot:* Bob Rozakis and Stephen DeStefano; *pencilled art:* Stephen; *dialogue:* Bob (with Stephen kibbitzing); *inking:* Karl Kesel; *lettering:* Bob Lappan; *coloring:* Tom Ziuko; *editing:* the Flying Gold Bros. I'm sure there'll be confusion in the third and fourth issues, too, so let me clarify a point here. Although I raved in my text piece about our colorist, Tom Ziuko, the credit for coloring was given to Nansi Hoolahan. The fact of the matter is, Tom was overbooked because of the NATHANIAL DUSK mini-series and a lot of other projects, so he had an assist from Nansi. They worked together very closely, however, so Tom was overmodest in asking that all the credit be given to Nansi.

Sorry about point #2, but Maze does not live in the DC Universe. There are absolutely no super-heroes or condoned vigilantes in his section of Queens, New York, and that's why he's unique. That's also why some people suspect he's lighter than air between his kettle-covered ears.

Sorry, too, about DC RELEASES. It's available in comic shops everywhere, but we send none out to individual fans.

*****

Guys:

Well *I* liked it, 'MAZING MAN #1 that is, just in case you later need proof that *somebody* bought it. It's a wonderful book, genuinely sensitive, sentimental, and sympathetic, a honest-to-gosh *situation comedy* in funny book form, which is quite an achievement. Although a certain amount of exaggeration is necessary in humor, you also need a degree of *subtlety*, without which you descend into the grotesque, a respectable, if lesser brand of comedy (ANGEL AND APE, INFERIOR FIVE, etc.). Situation comedy, at its best, requires characters, not caricatures, cliches, or stereotypes, and situations somehow germaine to everyday life. 'MAZING MAN scores points in both areas.

What's *most* remarkably about 'MAZING MAN, however, is a certain refreshing *vagueness* about the whole thing. Denton (Howard the Duck?) seems to be an unreliable narrator (boy, you can tell *I* went to college, huh?); his negative attitude isn't confirmed by the behavior of others. And 'Maze (Zippy the Pinhead?), on the other hand, is remarkably simple (like an angel, not a lunatic), yet except for the odd moment of Zippy-like incoherent fancy, he seems quite solid; not so much a comedy relief super-hero as a living public service announcement. He's clean,

doesn't seem to smell, and even at his dizziest, remains relatively quiet and coherent. He's the kind of street crazy I'd like to see in *my* neighborhood.

And *were* Brenda and Eddie the popular steadies and the king and the queen of the prom (riding around with the car top down and the radio on)?

So, yeah, *I* liked it, but will anybody else? I have to give DC credit, though: the Company That Can't is back there in the trenches, flinging out posters, full-page ads, and press releases left and right (you can't accuse them of Blackhawking you). GROO seems to be selling, but then, it's a Marvel, after all...

You have to understand that I've been through this again and again, with BLACKHAWK, ARION, NIGHT FORCE, ARAK, CAPTAIN CARROT AND HIS AMAZING ZOO CREW, and ATARI FORCE. I'll buy 'MAZING MAN because it *is* good and is worthwhile and, if nothing else, you've produced a funny book that C.C. Beck can read without having a seizure. That alone should be worth your efforts.

S.A. Bennett
687 Merton Avenue
Akron, OH 44306

Denton's got a smart mouth, S.A., but he's hardly H. the D. He's a Rozakis-De Stefano original, with plenty more dales and ridges in his personality, as you'll continue to discover, issue after issue. Your comments about Denton's reliability as a narrator are quite perceptive, I think.

*****

Dear Stephen and Bob,

Let me get right to the point and tell you I enjoyed it—and "enjoyed" is the best word to describe it! It made me laugh, it made me consider, and it made me feel. It is entertainment in a most wholesome sense—I think it's got something for everyone, if only they'll look at it; which brings me to what I feel will be the book's main obstacle: making the right people read it. I think whether this book lives or dies depends on how well you're able (a) to determine just who this book's audience is and (b) to make that audience aware of just what 'MAZING MAN is. Though this is an "all-ages" book, I can see it encountering the same acceptance problems as did ZOT! and being casually passed up as "another kiddie book." It's important that 'MAZING MAN is read, and not just looked through. At a casual glance, what you have is a talking dog and some kid who thinks he's a super-hero, running about in his dad's Jockey shorts. They've got to meet the people in this book and touch their feelings—that's what I see the book as being about: "humanity."

On the lighter side, I see Maze as almost an "anti-Badger." They work under the same pretense: to protect society, but they accomplish it through different means: the Badger through vigilantism and Maze through samaritanism.

Rob Caswell
35 Presidential Apts.
Amherst, MA 01002

*****

Dear Alan,

I daresay you'll get some folk opening their letters with the line, 'Mazing, man, simply 'mazing!', so I will refrain from being so pedestrian. Instead, I'll say that 'MAZING MAN no. 1 will go down in comic book history as the smartest thing DC did in its 50th-birthday year.

Why do I say that? Well, for a start off, I couldn't think of anything else to say, but it also happens to be my honest opinion. Having reached an age when there doesn't seem to be quite so much fun to be had, I'm so glad that DC have seen fit to bring the fun back to comics. BLUE DEVIL is a shining example of this and now 'MAZING MAN has made laughing at comics a respectable thing to do.

Really, I had a lot of fun reading this first issue. Bob Rozakis has a flair for subtle humor as well as the more blatant (one might even say corny) siguation comedy. Both were to be seen aplenty here. The characters were introduced cleverly. We learned a lot about the kind of people they are without overwordy captions or dialogue. Denton already seems to be a pretty "deep" character, something his appearance would belie. But I'm not going to go into an in-depth examination of the characterization (editor Gold breathes sigh of relief). That is not what this book is for. Instead I think I'll go read the book again. I haven't chuckled so much in ages.

Before I do that, though, I would just like to say that Stephen DeStefano is one hell of a find for DC. Only the great Sheldon Mayer has a more appropriate art style for this kind of comic. (Well, maybe Marie Severin, too.) Every page was delightful, and the sheer variety of layouts was most impressive. Do you get the idea now? I like this book!

Dale Coe
56 Whitecross Road
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

*****

Dear Maze-Runners,

This is a brand-new book, right? Okay, let's start timing *now*—how long until T.M. Maple hits this lettercol?

In other news, 'MAZING MAN is painfully corny, written in first person (usually a deadly mistake), and my new second-favorite book. It would be my first favorite, except I love *that* book so much the only way it could be knocked out of top slot is if I wrote the contender myself—and even then I'd have to do a bloody brilliant job of it. I think I'd have to write "Repent Harlequin Said the Ticktockman" to top 'MAZING MAN.

Most humor titles go all out in an attempt to be visiously hysterical and they usually star abrasive loudmouth types in weird situations. It's impossible to relate to them as characters so you relate to most of them as jokes, and the only way they get by is by being funny enough to keep afloat. There's really very little that's actually funny in this book, but the low-key likability of it makes most of the bad jokes good and the very bad jokes bearable. 'MAZING MAN doesn't go for the jugular, it just tells little stories and the jokes in the stories are tied to the characters so well, they're less necessary to make us laugh than to define the characters.

And dear old Maze himself. He looks like the brother Doctor Fate doesn't talk about. He's instantly funny, sort of an odd combination of Droopy Dawg and Super-Grover, solving problems by the sheer power of utter niceness. Guy's like a box of Cracker Jacks: all-American; undignified, but fun; good-natured; very simple; and mostly nuts.

I can't see anyone *not* liking 'MAZING MAN. Even the art's fantastic. Stephen DeStefano and Bob Rozakis each deserve a great big bag of candy for their efforts. Alan Gold—aw, he's just the editor, he don't do nothin'. Stephen can share with him.

Long live 'Mazing Man! And don't worry, I did some checking and found out Huckleberry Fox is not the kid's real name.

I don't know what that means either.

Michael Pickens
P.O. Box 552
61 Leonard Avenue
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

*****

Dear People:

I have just sent in my $9.00 vote for the continuance of 'MAZING MAN.

When I purchased 'MAZING MAN #1, I was expecting some kiddie korn. But somewhere I'd heard it might be above average kiddie korn, so I thought I'd see what was going on.

Gentles, it wasn't even in the vegetable kingdom! Here is a comic with something far too rare in the comics world: heart (and a little style). No Ambush Bug (I don't mind Ambush Bug, but he's a concept that gets old quick). No Superman, either. Here's the type of person who would *really* put on a tin hat, cape, and BVDs, wander around in public and call himself a super-hero: a certifiable loonie tune; nice but perhaps a little embarassing, perhaps frightening at times.

I have one fear about 'Mazing Man: that you'll try to work him into the "DC Universe." You know, Superman and 'Mazing Man in the November issue of DC COMICS PRESENTS. That kind of thing. My suggestion is that you keep him like Warlord: a universe to himself (though Warlord appeared in CRISIS, a mistake, in my opinion).

Finally, I really like Brenda and Eddie. Now, here's a couple in love: they can fight and make up and "face the music"together. They fit into the 'Mazing Man's world: real people living in a comic book.

Hubert E. Hix
1819 Dobi Blvd.
Stillwater, OK 74075

*****

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote:

T.J. Gillis
Shane Wiggs
Patrick Stevens
Gonz Duran
David Hartnett
Rich Liu
Albert Ko
Tim Rasmussen
David Anderson
Thomas E. Zmudzinski
Marid Tiambeng Jr.
Peter Krieger
Rodger Martin
Greg Partridge
Gerard Cruz
Denis McFarling
Alan C. Zumwalt
Greg Greenwood
Tony Dunlop
John Henry Sain
Paul Lukacs
Kristin Fance **(already, you want 'Mazing Man buttons, t-shirts, posters, bumper stickers, postcards, and wall hangings? Whew!)**

If I've omitted anybody, it was an oversight I regret. ***—Alan***